

Hafa Adai!

Govt seeks experts who will review
the draft EIS.

» PAGE 3

MHS student one of 25 winners
of nat'l picture contest.

» PAGE 15

Saipan Tribune

75¢

RUN AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Department of Fire cadets run in formation when they joined last Saturday's PIC Hafa Adai 5K Color Run. Part of the proceeds of the fundraising event will be donated to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

JON PEREZ

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Homicide in Oleai

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former staff assistant of Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) was found dead inside her house in Oleai yesterday afternoon in what police classified as a homicide case.

Saipan Tribune learned that the victim is Ana Maria Limes, who was found face down inside her living room.

An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death and the weapon used.

» On Rota, family members urge police to look into death of Rose S. Pangelinan

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero would only confirm last night that it is a homicide case involving a woman in Oleai shortly after noon yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero said the victim is a Carolinian woman in her 40s.

The commissioner said DPS will only confirm that police responded to what turned out to be a homicide incident.

Deleon Guerrero said Attorney General Edward Manibusan was alerted regarding this "unfortunate community tragedy."

"DPS Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation detectives are working tirelessly in investigating this case," said Guerrero, adding that the incident occurred within the San Jose or Oleai area.

He said DPS will not release any other information until today's news briefing.

As of press time, police hasn't arrested anyone with regards to Limes' purported killing.

Meanwhile, on Rota, some family members of Rose Sablan Pangelinan urged police to look into her death last Thursday.

Pangelinan was said to have been found unresponsive by family members at her house in Sinapalo II and was transported to the Rota

See **HOMICIDE** on **Page 4**

Mathewson pleads not guilty

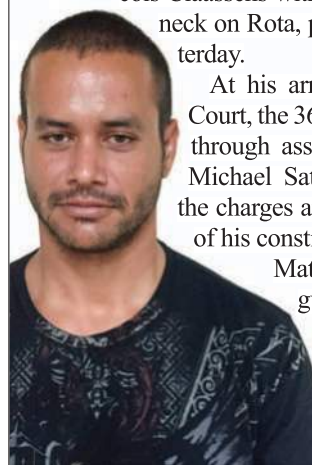
By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William Kapono Mathewson, the man charged with beating and stabbing 60-year-old Dr. Francois Claassens with a fishing spear in the neck on Rota, pleaded not guilty yesterday.

At his arraignment in Superior Court, the 36-year-old Mathewson, through assistant public defender Michael Sato, waived reading of the charges and waived advisement of his constitutional rights.

Mathewson pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with attempted first-degree murder, aggravated

See **MATHEWSON** on **Page 4**



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Rota Health Center hosts the Rota Health Symposium.

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WORLD

A smuggler's boat crammed with hundreds of people overturns off Libya's coast.

» PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

The ACM Awards becomes a family affair for pop star Taylor Swift.

» PAGE 20



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Local

Legislature expected to adopt budget resolution

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature is expected to pass this week a concurring resolution on the proposed \$145.8 million government budget for fiscal year 2016.

After passing the budget resolution, the lawmakers are expected to conduct budget hearings for the different departments.

According to Rep. Antonio Sablan (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, after the concurring resolution is passed, legislators will then schedule a session to adopt the budget.

"After we adopt it [budget], we convene the department budget hearings," Sablan said.

The lawmaker said bigger departments will probably be prioritized, including the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., particularly Medical Referral, and the Department of Finance.

Declining income tax collection

Sablan said lawmakers want to find out what has been done to encourage tax compliance, as well as the proper recording of tax obligations, particularly income tax.

The collection of taxes falls under the Revenue and Tax Division of the Department of Finance.

Sablan said one of these concerns is the declining income tax collections. The lawmaker said there are a lot of businesses coming up and the tourism industry is apparently booming.

However, income tax collection continues to decline, he said. He added that tax collections in other areas have been increasing and that the decline in income tax collection has been happening in 2014 and 2013.

"Due to the improvement in the economy, we should have seen an increase in the numbers [for income tax], but the numbers are on the decline, not just for the projection but from the prior year," he said.

Budget for the MVA

In a separate interview, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerreo (R-Saipan) said he will ask his colleagues in the House to make the budget hearing for the Marianas Visitors Authority one of its priorities.

Guerrero said he will take the opportunity to clarify a few questions with the MVA during the hearings, particularly funding.



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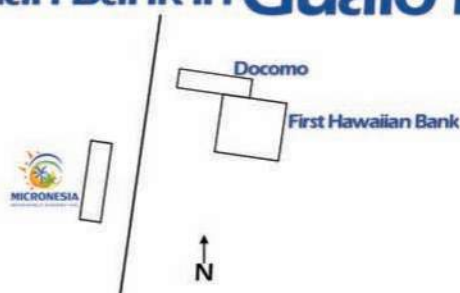


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Govt seeks experts who will review the draft EIS

The government is moving forward to hire external expertise to review a draft environment impact statement on military activities in the CNMI.

This despite a pending request for an extension on the EIS review period for six months that the government earlier sent to the military. There are no updates yet if the request will be granted.

The government has started

Trial of ex-Rota official in 'ice' case starts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the air-conditioning unit not working, the jury trial of former Rota Finance Procurement and Supply acting administrator Tilford S. Toves began yesterday at the Superior Court on Rota. Toves is facing charges of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Saipan Tribune learned that during the jury selection, over 100 potential jurors, including many elderly citizens, sat in the Rota Court House, suffering from the heat due to the broken air-conditioner.

After all efforts to fix the unit failed, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered the court staff to place fans throughout the courtroom to alleviate the heat.

By 12pm a jury had been empanelled, consisting of seven, including two alternates.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas called to the stand three witnesses who were among the passengers on a flight to Rota when the "ice" was discovered.

Assistant public defender Mathew Meyer served as counsel for Toves.

The jurors went home at 5:10pm. Camacho ordered them to return today, Tuesday, at 8:15am, for the continuation of the trial.

It's the first jury trial on Rota in about 10 years. Camacho was assigned to handle Rota cases only in January.

In June 2014, police officers arrested then-Rota Finance official Toves and then-Commonwealth Health Center administrative staff Berlanda C. Flawau for alleged "ice" trafficking on Rota.

The two's arrest came about after police discovered, through a confidential source, that Flawau allegedly sent a package that contained 20 baggies of "ice" from Saipan to Toves on Rota on June 11, 2014.

Officers allegedly seized \$1,000 worth of "ice" during the operation.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Toves with attempted illegal possession of a controlled substance, conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance, and restriction upon the use of a government vehicle.

soliciting request for proposals for a third-party contractor or consultant, and has also released the scope of work for the potential consultant who will have advisory functions.

The government said it is seeking "consultant services to ensure that the Office of Governor thoroughly understands the DEIS, its potential positive and negative impacts, and all

substantive options, including legal remedies if agreements and other mitigation measures with the military are unable to be reached."

One of the primary goals of the advisory consultant is to also "ensure that the Office of the Governor is well versed on the relevance of the DEIS and has a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of how the De-

partment of Defense proposed action impacts the CNMI, including the direct and indirect impacts, especially those that are less obvious and potentially harmful over the long term operation of live-firing (high explosives) training ranges."

The advisory consultant is also expected to ensure and enable the Office of the Governor "to make informed decisions on

behalf of the CNMI."

The consultant is also expected to provide a "reasonable analysis" of the draft EIS and provide counsel and recommendations.

"We understand this is a complex and lengthy document that requires expert review. With this RFP, we are reaching out to potential experts in this technical field," Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a

statement, said.

The government has set May 6 as the deadline for anyone to respond to the RFP. It has also put up advertisements for the RFPs on April 17 and April 24.

The RFP period is for 14 days per procurement rules under the Expedited Purchases clause of the procurement rules and regulations due to the urgency of the services needed. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

San Nicolas solicits bids for guesthouse renovation



Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas is joined by the Tinian leadership for a ribbon cutting ceremony after the completion of phase one of the Tinian Health Center's renovation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas issued yesterday an Invitation to Bid for the renovation of the Tinian Guest House. Located on Navy Hill, the Tinian Guest House serves as temporary housing for Tinian's medically referred patients on Saipan. Included in the renovation are two Samoan Housing units in

upper Navy Hill.

The project package will be available on Friday, April 24, and may be picked up at the CIP Office on Capital Hill.

"Mayor San Nicolas promised that he would prioritize infrastructure development and health care and he is certainly doing it," said Carla San Nicolas, director of the Tinian

Liaison Office.

In March, the mayor and the Tinian leadership broke ground for phase two of the repair and renovation of the Tinian Health Center. CHCC resident director William Cing and CIP administrator Vicky Villagomez led the groundbreaking at THC. The leadership also had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the com-

pleted renovations of phase one.

"Thanks to the support of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, Municipal Council, the CIP Office and the Governor's Office, Tinian patients will soon have newly renovated rooms to use during their referral to Saipan and will enjoy improved facilities at the Tinian Health Center," said San Nicolas. (PR)

Jury finds ex-Tinian fireman not guilty

A Superior Court jury on Tinian reached yesterday a not guilty verdict against Christopher San Nicholas King, a 39-year-old former fireman accused of sexually abusing a then-5-year-old girl 10 years ago.

After deliberating on Friday and yesterday, the six jurors acquitted King of the charge of one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

"We're just very thankful for the jury and their verdict. We believe in our jury system," said Joaquin Torres who, together with Victorino Torres, are co-counsel for King.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Folley prosecuted the case.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja presided over the trial that began last April 13.

King also used to work as a library attendant. He is currently working at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Saipan Tribune learned. (Ferdie de la Torre)

EARN COLLEGE CREDITS THIS SUMMER!



The College Access Challenge Grant Program is offering a scholarship of up to \$1,000 for high school seniors and juniors to take college courses at the Northern Marianas College through the Summer Academy. The Summer Academy gives high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. In addition to college level work, Summer Academy participants will also receive college advising, academic tutoring and college preparatory and life skills training. Participants also take part in field trips, workshops, and various team building exercises.

For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 237-6782 or email christine.inos@marianas.edu, or hedwig.hofschneider@marianas.edu, or theresa.worswick@marianas.edu

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Friday, June 26, 2015 @ Room D1

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For more information, visit www.marianas.edu and follow NMC on Twitter @GoProa and on Facebook at [facebook.com/NMC.Proa](https://www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa).

**IT'S OFFICIAL**

James Ada, seated second from right, is surrounded by government officials after he took his oath of office as the new Department of Public Works secretary on Friday.

JOEL D. PINAROC

HPO seeks community input on projects

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To meet the U.S. National Park Service's requirements, the CNMI Historic Preservation Office must do two projects: a "Historic Preservation Legislation Evaluation Project" and an "HPO Grant Program Audit."

The federally proposed projects come with the anticipated receipt of \$410,831 from the

Park Service for fiscal year 2015.

NPS' proposed goals are the legislation project, the program audit, and the nomination of significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and education outreach to the CNMI's children.

CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer Mertie Kani told *Saipan Tribune* she is still clarifying if the legislation

project means that existing legislation regarding the office needs to be amended or new ones be made.

For the Historic Places nomination, Kani said the office can submit the nomination of one site to the National Register per year. This was the nomination of the Kalabera Cave Rock Art drawing site, which was approved by the HPO board last month.

For the education outreach, the office's new historian, Ray Muna, has been giving presentations in schools, she said.

On Wednesday, the office holds their final public hearing on office goals for fiscal year 2015. This week's meeting is on Saipan at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It starts at 6pm.

Less than 10 people showed up at the previous two meetings

on Tinian and Rota last week, according to Kani.

The office is asking for comments on areas to focus on this year, community projects to fund, areas of focus in their publications, areas of focus in sur-

veys and in identifying cultural materials, and aspects of their program that need improvement.

Written comments can also be submitted to HPO no later than April 24.

NMC budget starts out similar to last year's

With budget talks at the Legislature expected to begin soon, appropriations for the Northern Marianas College appear to be on status quo.

Right now, Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed budget for NMC, which is sitting with the House Ways and Means Committee, is at a proposed \$4,475,770.

The college had submitted a budget request of \$8.481 million to the Office of the Governor

last month. They are receiving \$4,405,352 in local appropriations for this fiscal year.

The governor's proposed amount is set for "all others" in the budget category summary. But while no appropriations for utilities or personnel are specified, the college, like in previous years, expects to use the earmarked funding for personnel salaries. Tuition and fees and federal program funds also cover positions not

covered by local funds, according to the college.

The governor's proposed budget notes 117 full-time employees for the college. In their budget request, the college had slots for 136 FTE positions.

Five of these were to be reinstated FTE positions, three of which are to support their workforce training goals. Two are for business instructors and the other is a workforce investment program manager.

Notably, 8 percent, or \$686,000 of the college's requested \$8.4 million, were for salary adjustments for all staff and faculty, as well \$200,000 for faculty ranking adjustments.

The college also pays some \$600,000 in utilities out of tuition and fee revenues. Historically, tuition and fees also cover improvements to classrooms materials, and pay to adjunct hours. (Dennis B. Chan)

Man indicted for allegedly stealing mail packs containing iPads, iPhones

An indictment was filed in federal court on Friday, charging a man of stealing mail packages that contained two iPads and two iPhones in 2012 and 2013.

The indictment charged Randy A. Sablan with mail theft, obstruction of mail, and

two counts of obstruction of mail.

The indictment also includes a notice that seeks to forfeit to the U.S. government any property derived from proceeds of Sablan's alleged offense.

The initial hearing will be on Friday at 9:30am.

According to the indictment, on Nov. 19, 2012, Sablan stole and abstracted a package out of the mail addressed to an individual identified by the initials G.G.E.

The mail package, which had been in a post office, contained two iPads.

Between April 27, 2013, and April 30, 2013, Sablan also allegedly embezzled a package that was addressed to a certain P.O. box and contained two iPhones.

The package had been in a post office, the indictment said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

PSS gets funding in several key areas in proposed budget

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sitting with the Legislature right now is a proposed Public School System fiscal year 2016 budget less than what was requested but still higher than last year's.

The Office of the Governor set a proposed allocation of \$36,455,094 for PSS earlier this month. This is equivalent to 25 percent of total general fund resources guaranteed to PSS in the passing of House Legislative Initiative 18-12.

PSS had requested for \$42

million. They were approved \$34.33 million for this year.

In their budget submission for FY 2016, PSS requested \$31.478 million for personnel, \$3.94 million under "all others," \$260,000 in funding for two new buses; deferred maintenance costs at \$1 million, outstanding utility debt at \$3.7 million, \$700,000 for classroom materials and instruction, \$400,000 in debt service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as \$420,000 for the Office of the Public Auditor.

PSS would add 38 teaching

positions and 41 non-teaching positions with their requested personnel budget, for an increase in 9.51 percent over this year's personnel budget.

In Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed budget, personnel cost is set at \$29.987 million. In total with the State Board of Education, a proposed allocation sum of \$29,127,832 for personnel is to satisfy the current actual salaries.

"No new positions were included" in the proposal, according to the governor, because PSS budget submission indicated "in excess of \$2.3 million

in unfilled vacancies."

In outstanding utilities, the governor proposed \$3.6 million compared to the requested \$3.7 million.

For the two new buses, one each for Rota and Tinian, the governor proposed \$254,000 to the PSS requested \$260,000.

The governor also proposed \$370,000 for fuel and lube for school bus repairs and maintenance.

For deferred maintenance for school facilities, the governor proposed some \$3.103 million compared to the PSS requested DM cost of \$1 million.

HPO still working to fill archaeologist post

Three individuals from off-island have expressed interest in the Historic Preservation Office's vacant staff archaeologist position, according to the HPO director Merti Kani yesterday.

Though these individuals have yet to apply, HPO clarified the position has been sent to their federal counterpart, the Historic Preservation Fund, to certify the application or make sure the list of requirements by the federal office are in the application, the office explained.

Once the application comes back with the list of requirements, the application will be sent to the interested individuals for filing with the local government.

The staff archaeologist salary, housing allowance, and travel

costs will be funded at 50 percent by federal funds and 50 percent by local funds in fiscal years 2015 to 2016. Travel will be funded federally.

Last month, the Historic Preservation Review Board bemoaned the lack of an archaeologist to guide the board and the office in consultation talks with the U.S. military over the impact of proposed live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan, for example.

The office's last archaeologist, Eric Lash, resigned last month.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that only one individual applied for the position when it was last vacant. Kani clarified yesterday that there were a "few" interested but they did not meet the application requirements. (Dennis B. Chan)

MATHEWSON

From Page 1

assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ordered that all preliminary matters be heard on Saipan.

Status conference will be on June 23, 2015, at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

HOMICIDE

From Page 1

Health Center, where she was pronounced dead.

There was unconfirmed information that an autopsy was already conducted at the Commonwealth Health Center on

Mathewson, a farmer/fisherman, allegedly stabbed Dr. Claassens in the neck with a fishing gear and clubbed him on the head with a big pot and chain.

The brutal attack happened in the back of the doctor's house in Teneto Village on Rota last April 4.

Claassens was last reported to have regained consciousness after he was hooked on life support for two weeks.

Saipan.

Saipan Tribune called Rota DPS but a staff referred comment to the DPS Saipan information officer.

DPS has yet to release information about the case. Deleon Guerrero is expected to release details about the case during today's press conference.

DPL to private landowners: Advertise your properties

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio is supporting a Senate resolution urging his department to encourage new investors in the CNMI to lease or purchase private lands before leasing public lands.

In response to the Senate resolution filed by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), Tenorio said he has "repeatedly empha-

sized in the media the importance of utilizing private lands for new business investments in the Commonwealth."

"I have encouraged and will continue to encourage our local private landowners to come forward and advertise their property to new investors. Ultimately, the decision to lease one's property lies in the hands of each individual landowner," Tenorio said.

He said the DPL "whole-

heartedly supports the intent" of Senate Resolution 19-05."

'No' to sale of public lands

In March, Quitugua joined the call to prevent the lease of public lands and instead prioritize private properties.

Quitugua filed S.R. 19-05 requesting the DPL to "encourage new investors to lease or purchase private lands before engaging in leasing public lands so that the limited public lands are reserved

for homesteading programs."

Quitugua's resolution said public lands are "diminishing" while privately owned lands in the Commonwealth are in "great abundance" and are sitting idle.

The senator hopes his resolution can address the economic hardships of many local families due to the high cost of living, utilities and health care, and education.

While Quitugua is offering an alternative for DPL, two law-

makers are directly urging the department to cease the lease of public lands.

DPL's announcement that it is in talks with Best Sunshine International, Ltd. to lease 40 hectares of public land in Marpi drew strong reactions from lawmakers who are strongly urging Best Sunshine and DPL to go for private lands, considering that some of the public lands eyed for lease are still occupied by residents and are being used for other purposes.

The Marpi land, according to Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), has always been home to historical shrines.

"Best Sunshine and the DPL should strike the right balance," Benavente said. "What will happen to the local residents once these lands are leased?" He said there are some 6,000 residents of Northern Marianas descent who are living in Marpi.

According to the lawmaker, Best Sunshine should buy more private lands to help more members of the community. He also questions why DPL is eyeing 40 hectares of public land for Best Sunshine, which he said is "too big."

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) echoed Benavente's comments, saying DPL should stop "giving away public lands."

Kilili bill seeks fishing fees to go directly to CNMI treasury

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has drafted a bill calling for fishing fees to go directly to CNMI coffers as well as provide more transparency for Pacific islands on the fishing industry.



Sablan

Sablan said he introduced the bill to "fine-tune fisheries policies."

He said the proposed "Fishing Economy Improvement Act, H.R. 1826" also gives indigenous people a greater role in fisheries management at both the national and international level and sends certain fishing fees directly to the Common-

wealth treasury without any strings attached."

"I drafted the bill after listening to hours of testimony during the last Congress on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, our long-standing national policy," he said.

Sablan said Magnuson is making America's fishing industry and the fish stocks the industry depends on more sustainable, but could be improved—and there are areas of bipartisan agreement on how to do that.

The proposed bill requires

that traditional Pacific island fishing interests have a seat on WestPac and on the international Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

"And certain fishing fees would go to the Northern Mari-

anas, Guam, and American Samoa—rather than WestPac—for the local governments to use as they decide," Sablan said.

Sablan's proposed bill also calls for replacing human observers with electronic monitoring on

some commercial fishing boats.

The purpose of which is "giving the public access to the inner workings of WestPac and other regional councils managing fishing," Sablan said. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

HOW MAY WE ASSIST YOU?

Hyatt wants to know how it can help your non-profit organization

"How may I assist you?" is a question guests are frequently asked when calling Hyatt Regency Saipan. It signifies the hotel's desire to express care by finding way to assist guests and make their Hyatt experience a truly meaningful one. Hyatt Regency Saipan now echoes the very same question to all the non-profit organizations on the island: "How may we assist you?"

Through its corporate responsibility platform Hyatt Thrive, Hyatt Regency Saipan will host the 20th Charity Golf Classic. This milestone event is a vehicle to raise funds on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation as well as another local non-profit organization of our choosing. The organization must be active within one of the four pillars of Hyatt Thrive: environmental sustainability, economic development and investment, education and career readiness, and health and wellness.

Of the funds raised in 2014 amounting to \$40,000, the hotel donated \$20,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which will help grant wishes of a CNMI child with life-threatening medical conditions. Also, \$10,000 will be appropriated to the CNMI Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen and other infrastructural improvements. A total of \$10,000 will also be used to aid Ayuda

Network's initiatives on health and disease-prevention.

Help Hyatt Regency Saipan assist non-profit organizations in making an impact to the local community. How may we assist you? Here's how to apply:

The non-profit organization must write a letter stating how it helps (or can help) make the local community a place where employees want to work, guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live and investors want to invest. The letter must also state how a partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan can help in advancing its mission, vision and goals (with all these stated). The organization must also be active within one of the four pillars of Hyatt Thrive. For more information visit www.thrive.hyatt.com.

Submit your non-profit organization's information pack and address it to the following contact details:

Josephine Mesta
Director of Human Resources
Hyatt Regency Saipan
P.O. Box 5087 CHRB
Saipan, MP, 96950

The selection of the non-profit organization will be decided based on votes cast by the hotel's executive committee members. The information pack must be submitted on or before 30, April 2015. **(Hyatt)**

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Hafa Adai!

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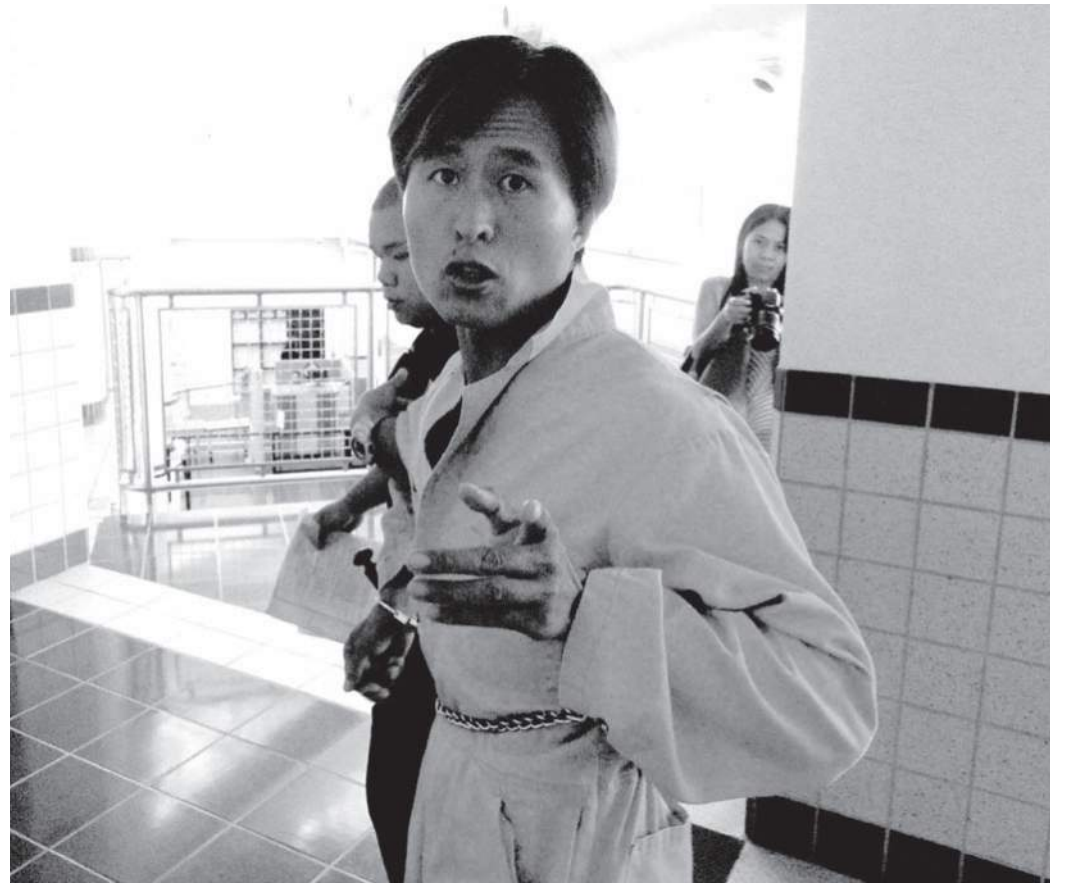
- Seventh Day Adventist School

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Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Man allegedly punched ex-wife repeatedly, pointed rifle at her



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Wei Zhang yells at a reporter to stop taking his photo after a bail hearing yesterday in Superior Court on charges that he repeatedly punched his former wife and pointed a rifle at her after she called the police for assistance.

A man allegedly repeatedly punched his former wife and pointed a rifle at her when she called the police for assistance at her store in Garapan on Friday night.

Wei Zhang, 36, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$10,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for April 27.

The victim, who owns AJ's Fashion, told police that Zhang used to beat her up in the past but that she never reported the matter to authorities. She also claimed that although they're already divorced, Zhang has been trying to control her life by bothering her at her store daily.

Police detective Maverick Saures stated in his report that a police officer responded Friday at 8:22pm to AJ's Fashion, where a domestic violence incident was reported.

Saures said the officer met the storeowner, who claimed that her former husband, Zhang, punched her in the head.

The victim told the officer that Zhang was still inside the establishment.

The officer proceeded inside and asked Zhang for his identification card. Zhang denied punching the victim.

The victim told the officer to review the surveillance camera's footage. The officer did so and confirmed that Zhang punched the victim four times in the head.

The footage also showed that after the victim called the police

for assistance, Zhang walked back and took what appeared to be a rifle and pointed the weapon at the victim's head.

The officer then arrested Zhang.

Saures said that in his interview with the victim the following day, she stated that Zhang arrived at the store at 6pm and, as she was talking with some friends, he stood next to her and told her that he was going to throw her things out. An argument ensued and escalated, prompting her friends to leave.

Zhang then allegedly punched her in the head repeatedly. She then called the police.

Saures said he also reviewed the footage that confirmed the victim's allegations.

The report did not mention whether police recovered the rifle. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Proposed bill wants CUC to shoulder streetlights' power use, maintenance

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) has introduced a bill seeking to mandate the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to shoulder the maintenance and operations costs of streetlights along primary roads in the CNMI.

The maintenance of streetlights currently falls under the Department of Public Works.

In the proposed Senate Bill 19-30, Igisomar noted that part of the CUC's mandate is to "supervise the construction, maintenance, operations, and regulation of electric, water, and sewerage services."

Despite this provision, DPW

still pays for the power usage of the CNMI's main streetlights, the bill states.

S.B. 19-30 also cited that the Student Driver Education Program reserves 15 percent of funds generated from learner's permit fees for the upkeep and maintenance of streetlights, and the expenditure authority is still with the executive director of CUC.

According to Igisomar's proposed bill, DPW's funds are not sufficient to cover the cost of DPW's operations, personnel, and the billing for the streetlights on primary roads.

The proposed bill is also seen to assist DPW in its ongoing dispute with CUC regarding the

accuracy of the billing for 4,414 streetlights still owed by DPW.

Substantial costs

The maintenance of streetlights is substantial as far as power consumption is concerned.

Public Works Secretary James Ada earlier said he has allocated between \$150,000 and \$190,000 per month from the department's proposed budget for the utilities payment of streetlights.

DPW also indicated that it's proposed budget for streetlights for fiscal year 2016 is \$1.7 million, prompting lawmakers to inquire if this budget can be used for other purposes, including solid waste management programs.



34th ANNUAL *Flame Tree* Arts Festival

APRIL 23 - 26, 2015 • CIVIC CENTER PARK, SUSUPE

TRIBUTE TO OUR FINE ARTISTS AND ADVOCATES



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**William I.
Macaranas**



**James Francis
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**Abel O.
Pell egrino**



**Josepha I.
Teregeyo**



**Ana Maria
Limes**



BEST SUNSHINE



SCHEDULE

APRIL 23, 2015 THURSDAY
5:00PM - 10:00PM
OPENING CEREMONY ARTISTS RECOGNITIONS
APRIL 24, 2015 FRIDAY
6:00PM - 10:00PM
APRIL 25, 2015 SATURDAY
10:00AM - 11:00PM
APRIL 26, 2015 SUNDAY
10:00AM - 11:00PM

ENTERTAINMENT
Please contact Gordon Marciano at 287-1195



CALVO'S



Foundation donates to Koblerville youth center

The Saipan Enrichment Foundation donated a Hewlett Packard all-in-one printer and toner cartridge to the Koblerville Youth Learning Center yesterday. In addition, McDonald's of Saipan donated a box of Xerox paper for the center.

"We're so excited and thankful for the Saipan Enrichment Foundation's donation to the center," said Shelane Borja, special assistant for the Youth Affairs Office. "We really appreciate it."

Borja said the Koblerville Youth Learning Center currently does not have any working printers. "This is a very big stepping stone for our office," she added.

Mary Tenorio, board member for the Saipan Enrichment

Foundation, explained that the foundation's main goal is to help children throughout the community and the islands.

"We wanted to see what the Youth Center's needed and lacked. We want to be there to provide assistance by donating things like computers, printers, scanners, etc.," she said.

Tenorio said this donation is a way to invite and encourage community members to reach out to youth centers because it helps the children.

"We aim to raise awareness about the Youth Learning Centers on Saipan, especially to centers that provide resource assistance to students in low-income neighborhoods," said Mable Ayuyu, president of the Saipan Enrichment Foundation.

"We want community members to know that there are a number of youth centers that need assistance. A printer, for example, is a small thing that can make a difference for the students that visit the center every day to print their homework."

Ayuyu said there have been a few community partners that have provided to the centers, including the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and IT&E, to name a few.

When asked why the foundation decided to donate to the youth centers, Ayuyu said, "... Our foundation was formed by the late Honorable Mayor Donald Flores. We want to carry out his dream of giving back to the students in the form of something that is tangible and that will make a direct impact



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Shelane Borja, special assistant for the Youth Affairs Office; Mable Ayuyu, president for the Saipan Enrichment Foundation; Mary Tenorio, board member for the Saipan Enrichment Foundation; and Gloria Kaipat, administrative assistant for the Koblerville Youth Learning Center.

on the children that can benefit from it the most."

As of this year, there are three active Youth Learning Centers in the villages of Koblerville,

Gualo Rai, and Tanapag.

"We are excited to make future donations to the centers," said Tenorio.

The Saipan Enrichment Foun-

dation thanks FSM Recycling for providing the funds to purchase the donated printer, as well as McDonald's of Saipan for their generous donation. (SEF)

MMAC PARTNERS

The management and staff of Rufina LLC poses with the students and faculty members of Koblerville Elementary School after inking a partnership for the Marianas March Against Cancer, which will be held on May 1, 2015.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Grace Christian Academy-Rota principal Anne Acuna, left, joins Grace Christian Academy-Saipan principal Beth Nunez, center, and Grace Christian Academy-Tinian principal Connie Chandler at a recent general council meeting on island.

Rota GCA principal: Maintaining student enrollment 'a challenge'

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Because of Rota's weak economy, people have had to seek education and opportunity elsewhere, according to the island's new Grace Christian Academy principal, Anne Acuna.

Acuna told *Saipan Tribune* that the result of the financial struggles families face is an enrollment of just 54 students in their Kindergarten, elementary, and middle school classes. That figure is lower than last year's number.

"Things are not the same as they were 10 or 20 years ago," she said.

The administration's primary goal, she said, is to maintain the student enrollment.

The school has already intro-

duced a number of programs and after-school activities to entice residents to send their children to the school in Sinapalo village. In addition to this, the school strives to get more families involved in their child's education and activities.

Acuna arrived on the southern island in 2013, but was recently appointed to be the principal of the school this school year.

With just nine months under her belt as principal and 10 years of work in a Christian Missionary Alliance Church and various youth ministries in the U.S. mainland, Acuna is running the school with just four teachers and a handful of volunteers. Acuna herself teaches 6th and 8th grade classes throughout the day.

The California native admin-

istrator said she came to the islands to fulfill her desire to serve as an educator.

"This is a great experience and I am here because I found that I need to do something like this and now I am fulfilling it."

Despite the many struggles the school faces, Acuna said that Rota is "a very calm and peaceful place."

"The people are very friendly. It is a different way of life. It is not as fast paced as the states and it is not as highly pressured as the states," she added.

Acuna hopes to continue her ultimate mission of "planting the seed of the word of God in the students and their families" as she remains at the helm of the educational institution in the next two years.

A FILMMAKER IN THE BODY OF AN EDUCATOR

Guerrero accepted to NYU Summer Film Program

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero will be pursuing his passion for filmmaking this summer. The long-time educator and filmmaker is set to earn a certificate in Digital Filmmaking from New York University's Center for Advanced Digital Applications in a two-week program this summer.

Guerrero has been producing, directing, editing, and working on films for over two decades now, but said that he has reached the limits of what he can learn on his own. He said he always desired to go to film school but felt like he had to decide between his two passions: teaching and filmmaking.

"This summer intensive [pro-

gram] is the perfect way to balance both passions and, perhaps, combine them," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to the course's website, the program is a "fast paced, teamwork-oriented, accelerated course that develops the creative talents of a select number of inspiring filmmakers in the essential aspects of today's digital film and technologies."

The program's goal is to immerse participants in the business and art of visual storytelling, while instructed by award-winning faculty members.

This is not Guerrero's first encounter with NYU. The 1991 MCS alumnus applied to the



Deleon Guerrero

university in 2004, but had to withdraw his application when Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho requested that he return to his alma mater to serve as its principal.

Guerrero's passion for teaching and filmmaking has gone hand in hand with the school Theatre Club's 17 years of film and production success. Under his guidance, the school has produced over 30 films and live productions. Many past and current students of Guerrero have said that his work inspires generations of performers, orators, actors, tech gurus, and filmmakers.

From behind the scene production to the debut of a live performance, Guerrero has suc-

cessfully molded several students into passionate and hard-working thespians.

MCS Theatre Club member and junior student Markel Toves said that Guerrero instills enthusiasm, creativity, and imagination in the school's club.

"I've always wanted to become a superhero or superhuman. With the magic Mr. Guerrero has shown me with theater club and film, lots of things seem so possible. He's opened closed doors that hid the answers to my questions," Toves said. "He inspired me to pursue my dreams and to achieve things higher than my comfort zone"

Some of Guerrero's most notable work can be found on his YouTube channel, "galvinguerrero."

Guerrero urges aspiring film-

makers to "keep up with the pace of technological advancements in digital filmmaking, but stay grounded in the roots of film by

learning from the classics." He said everyone should, more importantly, "do what they love and love what they do."

CNMI Board of Parole
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: April 20, 2015 Closing Date: May 01, 2015
Position: Chief of Parole Location: Saipan

Qualifications: The Chief Parole Officer is the senior parole officer and is required to manage and direct staff to accomplish the mandate of the Board of Parole. The ideal candidate for this position will have a minimum of three years of experience in the field of parole, community corrections, or a related field. To be effective, the Chief Parole Officer must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the principles and practices, which underlie parole and community correctional work.

Finally, the Chief Parole Officer will be required to manage a busy office, which is constrained by a lack of funding. Therefore, the ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate managerial experience that will enable the ideal candidate to operate the office efficiently and effectively.

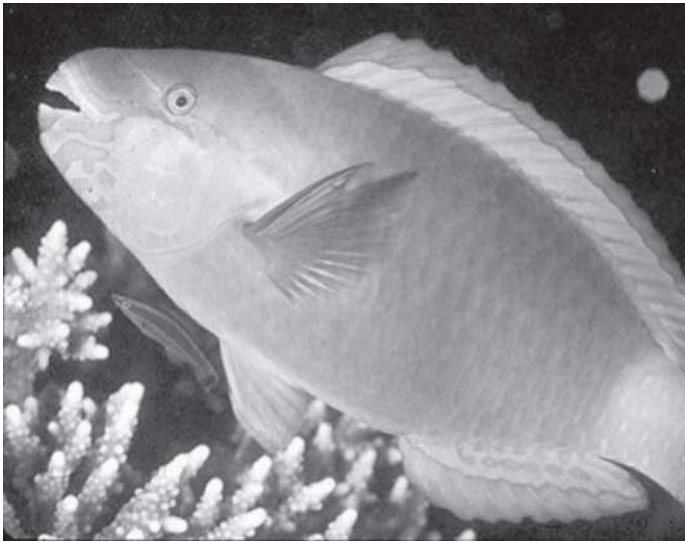
Interested candidates may address their resumes to the Commonwealth Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill, Bldg. 1216, P.O. Box 502641 Saipan MP.

Parrot fish biology and measures toward best managing its fishery

One of the most interesting and sought after fish species in our region are the parrot fish, which typically change sex from female to male as they mature, as well as becoming more brilliantly colored.

At present, our understanding of life history and demographic variability for this group of coral-reef fishes is poor, which hinders our ability to effectively manage this resource for present and future generations.

Brett Taylor recently completed his Ph.D. at James



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The parrot fish typically changes sex from female to male as it matures, and become more brilliantly colored.

Cook University in Australia and began working at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service in November 2014. He was previously

based at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory for seven years and has conducted demographic studies of coral reef fishes throughout Micronesia, the Great Barrier Reef, the Red Sea, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Dr. Taylor's talk summarizes an assessment of parrot fish life history and community ecology across oceanic islands of Micronesia. This work highlights the diversity of life history traits and the influence these traits have on vulnerability to fishing pressure.

APASEEM is pleased to join with the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in hosting this presentation by Dr. Taylor. Join us at the American Memorial Park Auditorium today, April 21, at 6:30pm. (PR)

Article Circle pays off \$600,000 debt to CDA

Article Circle Air Company has repaid its outstanding obligations to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

According to CDA comptroller Donnie James P. Millitante, Arctic Circle has paid out their total loan as of February 30 this year.

Article Circle had owed CDA \$600,000.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that this money was supposed to be used as a pledge for the company's interim loan with the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank in 2012. The money came with the condition that it would be converted into equity once the bank loan is finalized.

However, the loan transaction fell through. CDA demanded that the \$600,000 be returned.

CDA in March last year finalized a memorandum of agreement with Article Circle for a one year payment term.

The airline firm was required to pay \$55,846 every month until all obligations were settled within 12 months. Included in the monthly payment is a 7-percent per annum interest assigned to the \$600,000 loan. (Dennis B. Chan)

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2015-0919: Best Sunshine Resort & Casino is proposing to operate a 14-storey Hotel and Casino Resort consisting of 254 rooms and 6 villas with amenities. This use is classified as a "Hotel" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lots 104 D 08, 104 D 10 104 D 11R/W, 104 D 12, TR 21049-R2, TR 21054, 20152, 21050, 21059, 21071, 20172, 21066, TD 1440. These lots are located in Garapan between Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center and Orchid Street (Cpl. Derence Jack road). They are zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Old Business

D. Executive (Closed) Session

E. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogunoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER) CIVIL ACTION
OF THE ESTATE OF:) NO. 15-0023
)
PASTOR B.) AMENDED
GAGARING,) ORDER
)
Deceased.)

THIS MATTER, came before the court for a status conference on April 7, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223A. Petitioner Aida M. Gagaring appeared Pro Se.

Based on the matters adduced and for good cause shown, there being no notice to the heirs and no proof of publication this matter shall be continued to allow the Petitioner to publish the amended notice of hearing and comply with the Commonwealth Rules of Probate.

This matter is continued to April 28, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223A. All parties interested in this matter may appear and be heard.

SO ORDERED on this 10th day of April, 2015.

/s/ DAVID A. WISEMAN,
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. March 12, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. Reports
 1. Chair
 2. Board Committees
 - a. CIP
 - b. FPA
 - c. ISA
 - d. LIA
 - e. SARC
 - f. SICPP
 3. Commissioner of Education
 - a. Financial Status Reports
 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local
 - b. Head Start Program Report
 - c. Other matters
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
 1. Part B (Special Education Program)
 - a. State System Improvement Plan
 - b. Grant Application FFY2015
 2. Part C (Early Intervention Program)
 - a. State System Improvement Plan
 - b. Grant Application FFY2015
 3. Early Head Start Program (EHS) Proposed Policies
 - a. EHS Instruction Minimum Qualification Requirement
 - b. EHS Instructor Certification
 - c. EHS Instructor Contract
 - d. EHS Organizational Chart
 - e. EHS Year Round Calendar
 - f. EHS Selection Criteria for Enrollment
 4. Head Start Program Grant Application for 2015
 5. BOE-PSS Comments to Senate Bill No. 19-06: Ratification
 6. BOE-PSS Comments to House Bill No. 19-52: Ratification
 7. CNMI PSS Praxis Test Standard Cut Score re COE Memo 03.30.15
 8. FY2014 Audit
 9. Certification and Licensure Matters
 - a. Recommendation Memo#CLO-2015-003
- VI. Executive Session²
 1. Legal Updates
 2. Personnel/Certification
 3. Other matters
- VII. Administrative Matters
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- IX. Adjournment

¹Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Madame President

Now that Hillary Clinton finally declared herself a candidate for President in the 2016 elections, we hear of “My-damn-President” jokes aired by partisans, mostly those who are fearful of radical change that has swept the United States since it became a superpower. The venom was also aired against Barack Obama of the White House!

BHO broke the color divide in his move to the Executive Office but he was not one of the guys who suffered from the aggressive tactics of the KKK in the South. That his father came from Kenya rather than from the West Coast of Africa where most of the slaves in the South and the Caribbean came from, he is nevertheless “foreign” to the civil structures that withstood the U.S. Civil War (we observed its 150th year anniversary this year), which enshrined the image of the genteel Aryan race in the bayou and beyond.

It is ironic that Bobby Jindal of South Asia descent (India) is Louisiana governor and aims to be President of the United States, while Marco Rubio of Florida of Cuban pedigree aims to be off into more northern clime by the Potomac. Rubio’s credentials by one writer is that he is not Obama! OK! *Señor* Ted Cruz of Texas has Mejicano blood but was born above the 48th parallel in Canada, another ironic twist since the criticism leveled against BHO earlier was that he might not actually have been born in Hawaii but was delivered outside of the country.

Sarah Palin was woman enough of the dominant sub-arctic matriarchal type but too “manly,” perhaps for the ladies below the 48th parallel, for she alienated both female and male of the specie. Palin never stood a chance at being VP, to the great chagrin of the decorated Vietnam POW vet Arizona Sen. John McCain who, after Bush Jr., stood a slim chance at the executive office.

That’s what makes Hillary Clinton’s declaration of her availability to the White House most timely and formidable. The age factor is no longer a problem after the popular Gipper (Ronald Reagan), and her being female, after Bill’s wayward ways, holds enough sympathy with the skirted crowd that it might actually be a plus in her favor. Her stellar feat as the Secretary of State and her can-do attitude to overcome obstacles, with the endorsement of the current WH occupant, is enough to propel her to the Oval Office, barring any radical change to her yet to be tarnished reputation.

Much ink is spilled on the “dynastic” turn that American politics has become, with Kennedy and Cuomo, Bush and Clinton families on the limelight, so there is some hesitation with Hillary Clinton, except that she broke the laidback image of the first lady when Bill was in office, and allegedly tried to ramrod health, education and education measures into legislation.

Her program, progressive to many, is too radical to

See MADAME on Next Page

AARON HERNANDEZ GAVE UP

—A BIG HOUSE IN A GATED COMMUNITY, WITH AN EXERCISE ROOM, DEN, AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS...

—BARS...

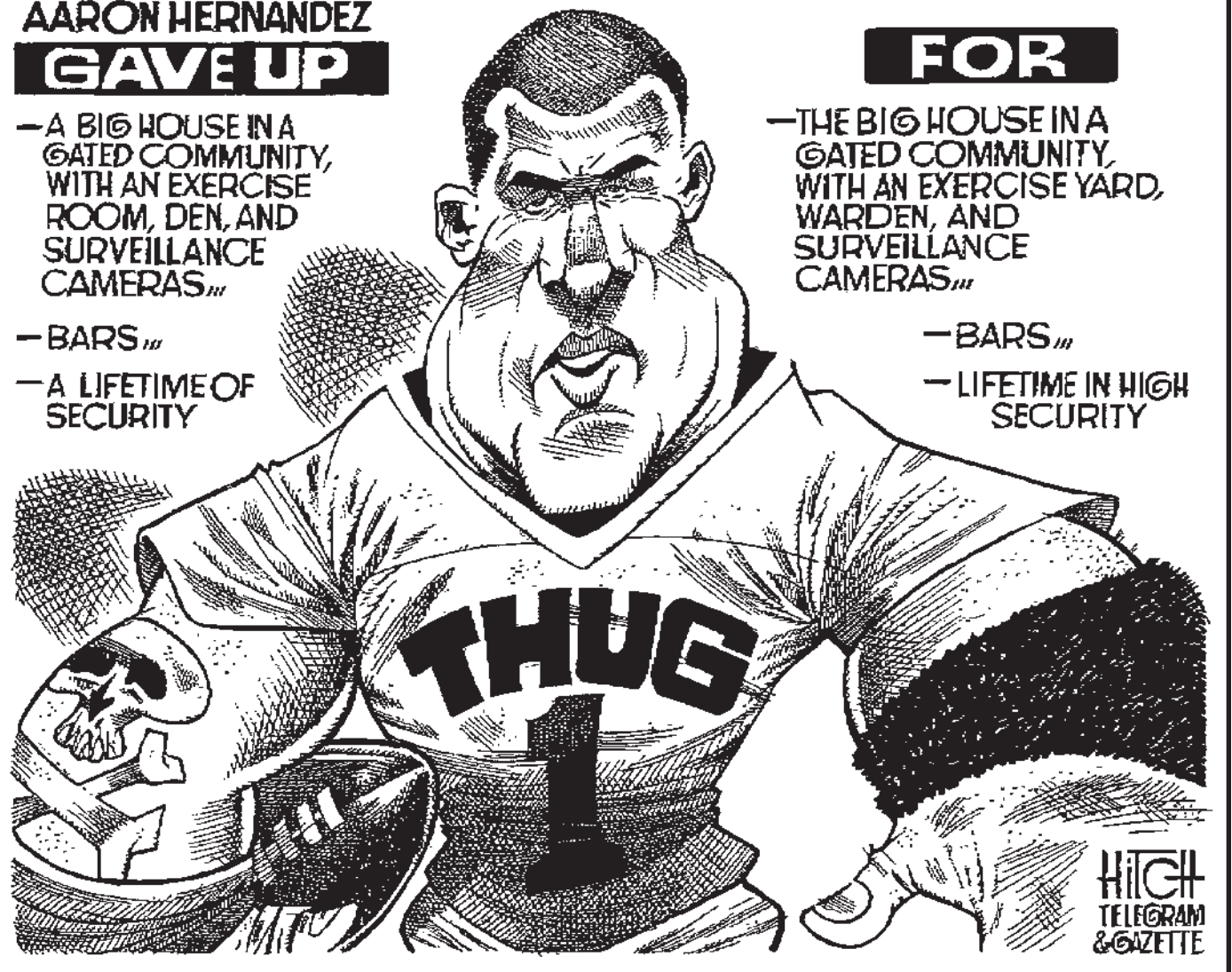
—A LIFETIME OF SECURITY

FOR

—THE BIG HOUSE IN A GATED COMMUNITY, WITH AN EXERCISE YARD, WARDEN, AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS...

—BARS...

—LIFETIME IN HIGH SECURITY



Not so mad and pretty willing to take it

Social well-being is primarily a function of economic well-being. That at least is true in the worldview of economics, and economics is the dominant lens free-market democracies use to assess themselves. But is it as true as we’ve grown to think?

In a recent column, for example, one our best writers on economics, Robert Samuelson, wrote that American businesses were too “middle-aged”—that contrary to impressions, startup businesses are not contributing enough to the economy and innovation is not coming fast enough.

“And society’s capacity to innovate is crucial,” he wrote. “It generates the wealth needed to raise incomes and dampen social conflicts.”

Looking back at America since World War II, one can make a strong argument that the connection between social conflict and prosperity is actually quite loose.

No period endured more unrest, including riots and years of protest, than the 1960s, a period of dazzling prosperity. In the most tumultuous years in our history since perhaps the Civil War, unemployment was just 3.6 percent, inflation was at 3.6 percent and gross domestic product grew robustly at 4.9 percent.

By contrast, in 1982 unemployment was at 9.7 percent, inflation was 8.4 percent and the GDP actually shrank. Yet there was no great social conflict or tension. Indeed, we tend to now recall Ronald Reagan’s second year in office as part of the Morning in America period.

Again, in 2009, during the Great Recession, unemployment hit 9.3 percent and GDP again declined. It was a miserable period that hasn’t yet generated any nostalgia.

But was it a period of great strife? No.

The late 1960s were obviously rare times. Deep divisions over Vietnam and civil rights boiled over, despite the country’s prosperity. However, in the decades since then, no amount of economic bad news has produced social conflict anywhere near as wrenching.

Periods of sharp frustration, where polling shows levels of trust, confidence and optimism tanking, were just as likely to be sparked by political events as bad business numbers: Watergate, the Lewinsky episode and various government shutdowns, for example.

It is also true that since the 1970s, there has been a steady, one-way decline in the trust Americans hold for government and institutions that has persisted through booms and busts. This lingering malaise is to the riots of 1968 as the flu is to Ebola.

It hasn’t fostered protests, but it has led to a prolonged period of gridlock (because voters don’t trust either party), culture war and political polarization (though we do tend to exaggerate their depth).

But all this just underscores the degree to which prosperity and

By DICK MEYER

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc). Readers may send him email at dick.meyer@scripps.com.



the social mood can run on separate tracks.

In this regard, society is like individuals.

“Positive psychology” is the relatively new field that studies what makes people happy and content instead of just mental illness. An early finding was that once individuals reach a floor level of material well-being (income, shelter, food, health and stuff), further increases in wealth or income only marginally boost happiness, and even those max out pretty fast.

Increases in happiness are much more likely to come from relationships, people and activities than money, objects or even accomplishments. Declines in material well-being have to be much steeper than we think to erase happiness.

Perhaps there is a parallel in modern societies. It seems like it would take a drastic decline in purely economic conditions—something like the Great Depression or more—to spark riots in the streets.

Similarly, cyclical variations in the economy don’t affect Gross National Happiness as much as we believe. Ronald Reagan was able to declare Morning in America as much because of his pastoral abilities as through better statistics.

The good news here is that it takes a lot to destabilize, divide and depress Americans.

The bad news is that politicians have grown fat and happy knowing that voters expect very little of them, that there won’t be pitchforks in the streets, and that the political structure protects incumbents and saves rascals from being thrown out.

If the economic view of the world were correct, this would be a moment of social conflict.

Since 1989, the real income and wealth of all Americans except those in the top five percent has either declined or stagnated (according to a comprehensive study by the Federal Reserve released last fall).

That is an almost unparalleled period of economic anemia. On top of it, economic inequality is greater than at any time in a century.

Is it a good thing, a sign of the resilience of our system and our character, that this hasn’t generated more social conflict? Or is it a droopy sign of a middle-aged society?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why do strangers assume my girlfriend is my nurse?

I recently was out on a dinner date with my lovely girlfriend Anna when a stranger approached to have a friendly conversation. He turned to my girlfriend and asked, "Are you his sister?"

There is nothing inherently wrong with his question, but if I saw two young people having a nice meal together, I would probably assume they were dating. This does not seem to be the assumption people make when you throw a wheelchair into the picture.

On various other occasions my girlfriend has been asked if she was my nurse. Once, a person asked if she was "the one who takes care of him." We've gotten used to this bizarre, recurring question, and often find ways to poke fun at the ignorance of strangers.

"He's my dad," Anna will sometimes answer with deadpan perfection.

"I just pay her to be my friend," I will often reply.

The mindset that causes a stranger to automatically assume that any female in my presence is a nurse, or family member, ignores the reality that people with disabilities can and do have "normal" romantic relationships. I place normal in quotations because I'm not sure if there is such a thing when it comes to love.

For a good chunk of my young life (I'm 22 and I have a disease called spinal muscular atrophy, similar to Lou Gehrig's disease), I didn't think I was worthy of that type of affection. I worried that my physical limitations would prevent girls from wanting to date me. I will not be able to pick her up in my car, I can't give hugs or hold hands very well, and we will be limited in the activities we can do for dates. It all seemed rather hopeless in the heart-wrenching, hormone-fueled days of middle school.

By SHANE BURCAW

The Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.)

Shane Burcaw lives in Bethlehem, Pa., and writes occasional columns for The Morning Call.



I worried even more that a girl would date me out of pity, silently putting up with the annoyances of my disease because she felt bad for me.

Then college came and my brain opened up to the real truth. I met some spectacular people who helped me shake the notion that love was only for the physically abled.

Sure, I can't hold Anna's hand in the traditional sense, but we make it work. To be fair, our fingers look like a catastrophic train wreck once they are intertwined in the precise position that I can manage. I can't pick her up in my car, but so what? She enjoys driving and so we make it work. And no, I can't go mountain climbing with her, but I can make her laugh. So we find other activities. We make it work. I'll leave the most intimate details for my books.

Once I realized that there are girls out there who are more than happy to "make it work," the fear of being unloved for all eternity drifted away like a funny joke of the past.

Today, I live with the firm belief that a relationship between an able and disabled couple can be even more satisfying than your average romance. I'm still young and sometimes stupid, so I don't want to trick you into thinking I have this all figured out. But I believe the deeper closeness in an able/disabled relationship blossoms from the process of teaching your partner how to "care" for you. That's a tough concept to grasp, so I'll try to provide an example.

The first day that Anna and I spent together, we decided to go out for brunch. This outing required Anna to learn "Shane Helper Lessons," such as putting on my jacket, driving my van, picking up my head when I lost my balance, cutting my food and helping me take sips of my drink.

At this point in our relationship, I hardly knew Anna, and was afraid all of this "helping stuff" would overwhelm her. I must have expressed this because I vividly remember a conversation where she said she was excited by the prospect of learning how to help me.

There is something profoundly intimate about a statement like that. On my end, I felt a deep sense of serenity that could only be attributed to trusting her with my care. On her end, and I've checked with her, there was an important emotional connection that began to develop when she chose to be with me despite the extra requirements of stepping in to do such things as cut my meatloaf.

In fact, one of our main sources of bonding was teaching her how to keep me alive—like how to brush my teeth without choking me, how to put my shoes on correctly or how to shave my face without slicing my jugular.

We never think twice about the fact that our relationship is abnormal in any way.

We simply make it work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Green Revolution!

As a cannabis advocate, I am in full support of the full potential of the cannabis plant: marijuana and hemp. I also understand the norms of society and must be mindful when sensitive issues are addressed so as not to harm or disrespect others in general. Although I was exposed to cannabis at an early age, it was in 1995 that I had wholeheartedly immersed myself in the cannabis culture. I absorbed everything I could about cannabis: from its use in medicine, spirituality, recreation, agriculture and industrial applications, including harm-reduction drug education studies and drug policy reform. I also became intrigued with marijuana horticulture, propagation and breeding. Like Johnny Appleseed, I had shared my hybrid strains with friends from the north to the south, which were then shared with others. In fact, the strains of the CNMI today, given their characteristics, may be a result of those shared seeds. In 1999, I was one of the proponents that spearheaded the Commonwealth Cannabis Tax Act, a ballot initiative that aimed for cannabis legalization in all aspects. It was really difficult garnering support for such a radical approach, given the hidden support of the people that were too afraid for many reasons, and dealing with the opposition that were paranoid with the stereotypical stigma associated with marijuana at the time. Although we had failed to get it on the ballot, it was definitely a learning experience that set the foundation for the future of cannabis and ultimately, to share the knowledge of cannabis. If I could change a negative mindset into a positive outcome, then I have succeeded one step further. This is how it always begins.

Today's cannabis movement is not your stereotypical long-haired, tie-dyed, flower power, anti-war, do-as-we-please, hippie-stoner group of the '60s anymore. Back then, only a handful of experts with courage and a small group of people, who had passion and conviction, were exposed in support of marijuana, with only about 20 percent of Americans in favor. By the 1970s, almost a dozen U.S. states have decriminalized marijuana with growing public support. Now, 40 years and four family generations later, 80 percent of Americans—marijuana users and non-users alike, along with prominent experts, scientists, institutions, organizations and agencies, which are backed by the evidences of cannabis science—favor the potentials of cannabis. We have completed a revolutionary cycle. History repeats itself. We witnessed marijuana legalization with California's medical marijuana in 1996. Then we witnessed recreational marijuana with Colorado and Washington in 2012, and many that followed to this day. Who would have thought that we would witness marijuana legalized in our lifetime? Throughout the years, I have been occasionally approached by the CNMI people requesting to go "one more round." Now, 16 years later since 1999, much has definitely changed in the cannabis movement, including the mentality of the CNMI people regarding cannabis. We all know this for a fact as evidenced in public opinion the world over.

Unlike the '60s, the modern cannabis movement is powered by people from all walks of life: Nobel Prize winners, inventors, scientists, economists, artists, politicians and revolutionaries; including professionals in medicine, law, engineering, education, sports, business, trades, etc., and majority of the common folk who are users and non-users of cannabis. Effective lobbying with our leaders and smart approaches to technological communication and social media such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Google and smartphones is what fuels spreading the good word of cannabis. This, my brothers

and sisters, is how we have been winning the war on cannabis all this time. Knowledge is power.

For those who know me in this regard, know that there are safer and better approaches in progressing with the cannabis movement. There is a saying, "Chance only favors the prepared mind." With chance, there is an opportunity to taking advantage of an objective. The objective: To legalize cannabis in one form or another, if not all, which will be considered a victory. With this said, an opportunity has been officially proposed and placed forth with the Senate medical marijuana bill, and it would be self-defeating as a cannabis proponent, and those in support of cannabis, not to seize the opportunity in addressing and even supporting one of cannabis' potentials—medical use. This is an opportunity that was done through a legislative process and not on the side of the street with picket signs and petition forms as we had done in 1999. We can view this legislative approach as a new grassroots-style tactical shortcut in expediting a cause, no matter what we are fighting for as long as we unite together with our leaders for a favorable outcome that will benefit all. In 1999, we tried for full legalization. In 2010 and 2012, Stanley Torres tried for medical and recreational marijuana respectively. In fact, Stanley's bill (HB 17-45) passed the house on Nov. 4, 2010, which marked the first time a pot legalization bill has passed in a legislative chamber in any U.S. territory. Now, we are completing another historical cycle, again.

It's 2015 and the CNMI Senate has entertained the public hearings and requested from the public their recommendations to making the current medical marijuana bill effective. I had pointed out the bill's weaknesses, strengths, and areas for improvement. Our MMJ bill is currently way better than Guam's and many U.S. states due to its language and discrimination protection sections as well as the inclusion of nonresident allowance into the CNMI MMJ program. Our bill started out good. Then it was redrafted to be better. Let us work at making it the best.

The freedom of liberty. This has always been the main reason in the fight for marijuana. The freedom of choice to decide for one's self as long as the decisions made do not harm others. Personal use is the essence of the marijuana issue. One more round? What do you think, my brothers and sisters, if we just make this a win-win situation? As requested by the Senate on inputs by the public, let us work to make recommendations in satisfying both groups of interest: patients and non-patients alike. Let us make it the best for liberty to treat one's self and the liberty of pleasure for one's self. We can do this. We will do this. This is how we will all preserve our dignity and liberty with cannabis. Get ready. History repeats itself. We have gone full circle my friends. Welcome to the "Green Revolution!" Biba Marianas!

In my world of cannabis, it is a beautiful world: the sick are treated, the spiritual are enlightened, the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed and the homeless are sheltered. All of this by embracing the full potentials of a single plant. I wish everyone can see from my eyes of what could be. Eventually, we will all get there. I hope. For all the right reasons, I am...Cannabis for life. Peace.

Gerry Palacios Hemley

*Cannabis Advocate
Garapan, Saipan*

MADAME

From Page 10


some. But she is a daughter of U.S. history. Before the Civil War, the country was the United States of America. After, it became the *United States* behind the acronym U.S. and US of A, a body becoming a single entity by itself and not just a loose confederation of states that had the Executive Office at the beck and call of state governors and US Congress reps.

Two entities at the moment dominate the global political scene: China and the U.S. Obama and Hillary both label China as the "bully" to Vietnam and the Philippines, the former building a station on South China Sea's Mischief Reef to bolster its claims in the South China Sea. Should Hillary make it, her nimble finger and polished nails will not stay politically manicured for long.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼76°


WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼76°


THURSDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°


FRIDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

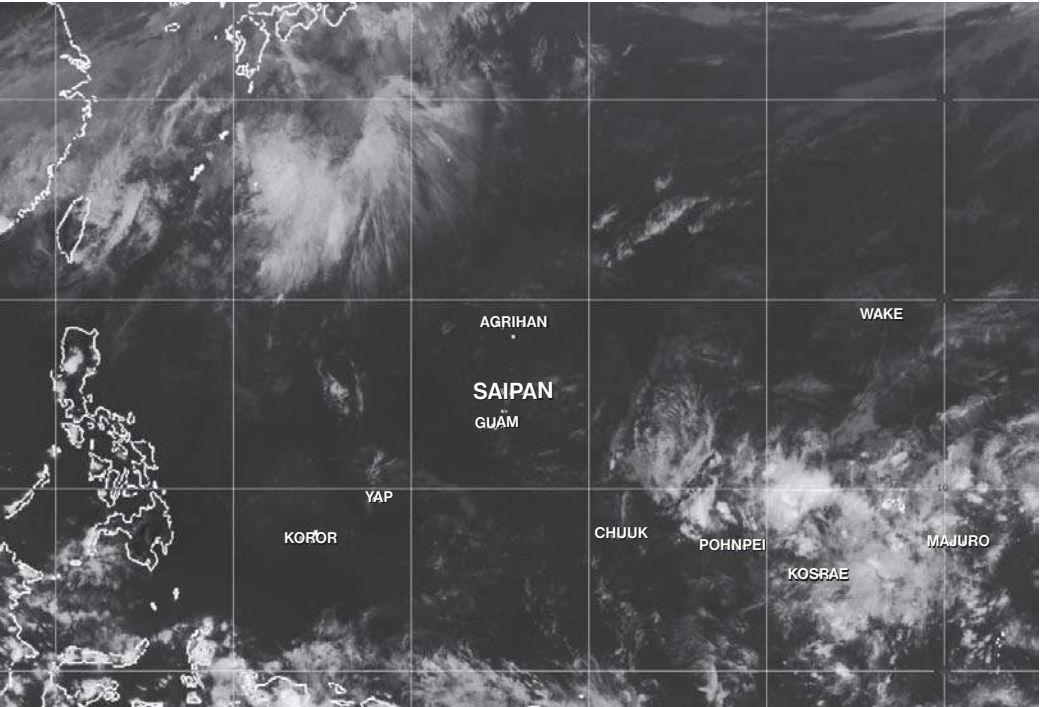
SATURDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from 6N132E through a weak circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 6N157E then turns southeastward to end near 3N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Chuuk and Pohnpei to east of Kosrae within 160 miles of a line from 11N153E to 10N161E to 4N170E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast to east of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 11N174E to 9N179E to 6N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Heavy Rain	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Heavy Rain	▲85	▼82

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Beijing	Windy	▲84	▼50
Hong Kong	Showers	▲77	▼68
Honolulu	Windy	▲82	▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
New York	Rain	▲61	▼56
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲66	▼47
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼51
Salem	Sunny	▲79	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲65	▼43
Tokyo	Showers	▲64	▼50
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼60



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:00 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	7:57 AM	9:02A M
Tuesday	8:51 AM	10:58 AM
Wednesday	9:44 AM	9:51 AM
Thursday	10:37 AM	11:41 PM
Friday	11:29 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7		
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6		
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6								
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
						UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
						UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM		
						UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM		
						UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM		
						UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM		

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM			UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA50											



The Rota Health Center hosted a Health Symposium on March 28, 2015, at the Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota. In these photos, parents and youth participate in a physical activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Health Center, partners host Health Symposium

The Rota Health Center, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health Programs, and the Let's Move Marianas Alliance partnered to conduct the Rota Health Symposium, Let's Move Marianas and Week of the Young Child Rota Expo on March 28, 2015, at the Sinapalo Elementary School grounds.

The event offered a variety of positive, health-related information and activities to support the community of Rota as they continue to be proactive in making changes toward living a healthy lifestyle.

The Rota Health Symposium aimed to provide preventive health services and to educate the community on the prevention and/or control of non-communicable diseases and address behavioral health that would empower the island's community to make healthy lifestyle choices and by knowing what services and resources are available on the island of Rota.

Through the Let's Move Marianas and Week of the Young Child Rota Expo, the event was also able to promote healthy childhood devel-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in one of the education sessions offered at the Rota Health Symposium have their picture taken.

opment for families of all sizes and cultures.

By coordinating the Rota Health Symposium with Let's Move Marianas and Week of the Young Child Expo, the event catered to over 250 participants on Rota.

The collaborative event offered session topics on Diabetes and Nutrition, Women's Health, Tobacco Use, and Mental Health. It also provided various sports activities, nutrition demonstrations, and early childcare programs to gauge and educate the community.

In addition to the informative sessions conducted, staff of the Rota Health Center were available to provide outreach and/or screening services such as blood sugar, blood pressure, and pregnancy tests; measles and flu vaccinations; collection of expired medications; and information sharing from the Bureau of Environmental Health, H.O.M.E Visiting Program, Medicaid and Sliding Fee, and Non-Communicable Disease Programs.

In the CNMI, seven out of 10 deaths are due to non-communicable diseases such as

heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer and risk factors associated with NCDs such as high blood pressure, physical inactivity and tobacco use to name a few. In a nutrition cluster survey performed in 2008, data collected showed that 45 percent of the CNMI's 7-to-10-year-olds are either obese or overweight. Children and teens who are obese have been found to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, and abnormal glucose tolerance.

Collaborating programs and

agencies of this event include the Rota Health Center, CHCC's Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Women, Infants and Children, Immunization Program, Women's Clinic, Community Guidance Center, and Hardt Eye Clinic with LMMA and its partners.

LMMA include agencies such as the Northern Marianas Athletics, Northern Marianas College, Childcare and Development Fund under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Mother-

read and Fatherread Program under the NMI Humanities Council, and the CNMI Head Start program under the Public School System.

Evaluations submitted by participants of the health symposium have shown that the island's community is requesting for more health information and outreach services for all ages. As a result, health care employees will continue to reach out to provide preventive care services to keep our community healthy and become productive citizens. (CHCC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A certified diabetes educator from Hardt Eye Clinic makes a presentation on preventing and managing diabetes.

Improving search and rescue in the Pacific region

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The Pacific has moved one step closer to achieving a harmonized regional approach to search and rescue capability as promoted in the Search and Rescue Technical Arrangement for Cooperation among Pacific Island countries and territories.

At the Sixth Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia on April 13–17, 2015, Pacific Island delegates have committed to accelerate acceptance of a regional non-binding arrangement to promote cooperation in search and rescue matters among 26 Secretariat of the Pacific Community members.

Also in support of enhanced efforts to save lives at sea, the delegates have undertaken to develop national search and rescue plans and to develop and update national search and rescue legislation.

The workshop was jointly organized



Search and rescue demonstration at New Caledonia Navy Base on April 15, 2015. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and International Maritime Organization and hosted by the government of New Caledonia to support Pacific search and rescue administrators to strengthen and enhance regional

cooperation to improve search and rescue capacity in the Pacific region.

This fundamentally humanitarian obligation is backed up by the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which requires that

contracting governments to “ensure that assistance be provided to any person in distress at sea,” and “follow relevant minimum standards and guidelines developed by the IMO,” said IMO technical officer Osamu Marumoto.

Marumoto delivered an appeal for ratification of the maritime search and rescue convention.

Recognizing limited financial and human resources, the workshop encouraged Pacific Island countries and territories to improve communication and planning between the bodies responsible for aviation, maritime and land search and rescue.

A highlight of the workshop was the live search and rescue demonstration that took place on Wednesday at New-Caledonia Naval Base with static display of Gendarmerie Ecureuil, Air Force Puma and search and rescue

equipment and dynamic demonstration of U.S. Coast Guard C130 air craft, France Guardian liferaft deployment with France Ecureuil winching in water and France Puma deploying stretcher winching with rescue boat.

The Search and Rescue Technical Arrangement was approved by the Pacific Regional Transport Ministers meeting in 2014 and signed by three countries so far, the workshop witnessed the signature of New Caledonia authorities and United States of America.

The Pacific Island delegates are determined to sign the Technical Arrangement for Cooperation and develop national search and rescue legislation and plan in the next two years to ever improve regional cooperation and national coordination in search and rescue for the benefit of each Pacific Islanders in distress at sea. **(SPC)**

\$64K Rural Business Dev't Grant available for the Western Pacific

HILO, Hawaii—State Director Chris J. Kanazawa announced yesterday the availability of funding of its new Rural Business Development Grant program. For fiscal year 2015, a total of \$108,000 is available for Hawaii and \$64,000 is available for Western Pacific for rural business development and job creation.

“Rural Development continues to invest in rural communities and businesses that create new economic opportunities” said Kanazawa. “Under President Obama’s administration we have seen

steady growth in rural business development. The Rural Business Development Grant is one of many programs that assist rural businesses in building capacity and sustainability.”

Congress established the Rural Business Development Grant under the 2014 Farm Bill by combining USDA’s Rural Business Enterprise Grant and Rural Business Opportunity Grant programs. The applicant eligibility for the program is to public bodies/governmental entities, non-

profit organizations, and federally recognized tribal groups. RBDG can be used to acquire or develop land, buildings, plants and equipment; build or improve access roads, parking areas, utility extensions, and water and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and to support rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job-training.

For more information on the RBDG program, contact one of the following

Business Programs Specialist:

■ Shirley Heatherly at (808) 483-8600, Ext. 118 or shirley.heatherly@hi.usda.gov for Oahu, Kauai, and American Samoa;

■ Lori Nekoba at (808) 933-8312 or lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov for Maui and Hawaii County; or

■ Anthony Barcinas at (671) 472-8567 or anthony.barcinas@pb.usda.gov for Western Pacific.

The deadline to submit a RBDG application is June 1, 2015, to any USDA

Rural Development office in Hawaii or Western Pacific.

President Obama’s plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President’s leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way-strengthening America’s economy, small towns and rural communities. **(USDA-RD)**



U.S. COAST GUARD

Crewmembers from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point stand with a survivor after conducting a rescue near Turtle Bay, Oahu, April 19, 2015. Three men were rescued by the Coast Guard and Honolulu Ocean Safety after their 15-foot recreational vessel capsized by a rogue wave approximately one mile north of Turtle Bay.

3 rescued from capsized vessel near Turtle Bay

HONOLULU—Three boaters are safe after their 15-foot recreational vessel capsized approximately one mile north of Turtle Bay, Oahu.

At approximately 10:29am watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Honolulu received a mayday call via VHF Channel 16 from three men stating their vessel had capsized due to a rogue wave and that they were in need of immediate assistance.

Sector Honolulu issued an Urgent

Marine Information Broadcast to mariners and launched an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point.

Sector Honolulu also notified the Honolulu Fire Department and they dispatched a jet ski crew from Honolulu Ocean Safety to the scene.

The Dolphin aircrew arrived on scene first, deployed a rescue swimmer, hoisted one of the men from the water and transported him to Coast

Guard Air Station Barbers Point.

Honolulu Ocean Safety arrived on scene shortly after, safely recovered the remaining two survivors and transferred them to Turtle Bay Resort where local emergency medical services personnel were waiting to assist.

No injuries were reported.

Two of the three men were wearing life jackets.

The Coast Guard advises all mariners to ensure they have recommended

safety equipment aboard to include a VHF marine radio, flares and life jackets. Wearing a life jacket greatly increases the chance of survival and it is recommended that it be worn at all times. Accidents can occur quickly and without warning to even the most experienced boaters, leaving little or no time to put on a life jacket.

The Coast Guard has issued a hazard to navigation notice to mariners for the adrift vessel. **(USCG)**

UOG students to host medical marijuana forum

The Administrative Law Class under the University of Guam’s Master of Public Administration program will be hosting a Medical Marijuana Policy Forum to discuss the status of the promulgation of rules and other matters relative to the Joaquin (KC) Concepcion II Compassionate Cannabis Use Act of 2013, pursuant to Public Law 32-134.

“As students of the Master of Public Administration program, we would like to ensure that the community is aware of issues that have significant impact to our community”, said forum chairperson and Master of Public Administration graduating student, Tasha Wade. “Discussions on the use of medical marijuana on our island have been quite prevalent for quite some time now and as a class, we feel that this forum will present an opportunity for the community to have a better understanding and to provide their feedback on the status of the promulgation of the rules for the use of medical marijuana”.

The Medical Marijuana Policy Forum will be organized in a panel presentation format and panelists will include various stakeholders to include representatives from the departments of the Government of Guam involved in the subject matter. The purpose of the forum is to generate awareness and build civic participation among different factions of our community.

The forum will take place on Saturday, April 25, at 11am at the University of Guam SBPA Room 131. The public is invited to attend this forum. For more information or any inquiries, contact Tasha Wade via email at tcdwade@gmail.com. **(UOG)**

MHS student one of 25 winners of nat'l picture contest

COLUMBIA, Missouri—A Marianas High School student has been chosen as one of the winners of the 1 for All's Picture Freedom contest, according to a news release from the organizers.

Jack Stewart of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, is one of 25 students across the nation who will receive \$1,000 scholarships for sharing original photos and artwork on social media as part of the contest.

The weeklong scholarship contest celebrated the five freedoms of the First Amendment: speech, press, religion, assembly and petition. View the winning entries at 1forall.us.

"It was truly gratifying to see the range of ways students pictured the five freedoms of the First Amendment," said Ken Paulson, president of the New-

seum Institute's First Amendment Center, dean of the College of Mass Communication at Middle Tennessee State University and founder of 1 for All. "This competition was a vibrant reminder of how free expression fuels creativity."

The contest was organized by 1 for All, the American Society of News Editors, the Journalism Education Association, and the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, with funding provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

"The judges, all members of the Journalism Education Association, were quite amazed with the creativity of the Picture Freedom submissions, for sure," said Mark Newton, president of JEA. "More importantly, the

judges were impressed with the strong messages of freedom in the submissions. When young adults use their First Amendment freedoms to articulate

those very same five freedoms with a creative social media voice, those freedoms rumble and those young adults are empowered."

SHRM's membership meeting to focus on healthcare issues

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter announced yesterday that its April general membership meeting will focus on the topic of "Healthcare Cost Trends for 2015 and Affordable Care Act Updates," which will be presented by Frank J. Campillo, MHP, of Calvo's SelectCare. This lunch meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle on

Thursday, April 23, 2015, from 11:30am to 1:30pm and not at the usual PIC location.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn about the upcoming trends in healthcare costs and how updates in the Affordable Care Act will impact the CNMI for 2015 and beyond.

The presentation includes

The winning students were selected from hundreds of entries based on originality, creativity and clarity in conveying the theme of freedom. Students

posted original photos and artwork using the hashtag #PictureFreedom to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter from Feb. 22 to 28. **(PR)**

lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve a seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at fgibson@yahoo.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource man-

agement. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. **(SHRM)**

Palau's 2015 census to break new ground

MELEKEOK, Palau—Innovative features incorporated into the Republic of Palau's 2015 national census of population, housing and agriculture will see Palau set a new standard for the Pacific region.

The census is currently underway, with some 140 census workers trained by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community visiting every town and village in Palau's 85 hamlets, asking householders to fill in a detailed questionnaire.

"For the first time, the census includes sections on agriculture, fishing, household income and remittances," the Palau Census Commissioner and director of Bureau Budget and Planning, Camsir Remengesau, said.

"Also for the first time, the nature of difficulties people face due to health and disability will be captured, and particular factors will be taken into consideration, such as human rights and gender issues," Remengesau said.

SPC has been providing technical assistance to Palau's Office of Planning and Statistics for the past 12 months to help the country prepare for its first full census in a decade.

This census also has more inclusive categories to measure secondary economic activity such as growing crops and vegetables for household consumption, raising livestock, and other types of work that, though unpaid, play a significant role in the wellbeing of Palauan families.

"Another first for Palau is the use of GIS mapping technologies that SPC has been assisting with," the director of SPC's Statistics for Development Division, Gerald Haberkorn, said.

"Geospatial coordinates will be linked to information collected in the census about household construction, access to water and sanitation, and other details of infrastructure. This linkage will provide the information for Palau to prepare and

respond to natural disasters and negative consequences of climate change," Haberkorn said.

The census will also enable Palau to calculate indicators of educational achievement that meet the latest UNESCO International Standard Classification of Education guidelines.

The new questions were developed by collaborators, including the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). They are the result of a long-term effort to calculate measures that are comparable across countries and accurately portray the unique and varied methods of producing goods and services that may not have been reflected in previous enumerations.

SPC's technical assistance to the government has also covered the budget, timetable, methodology and logistics; in development of the questionnaire, training manual and data processing systems; in field work monitoring; and in data editing, analysis and reporting.

Palau has been collecting census information since the 1940s so it is possible to measure trends in such things as language use, religion and family structure over several decades.

The information collected will be kept strictly confidential, conforming to the Palau Statistics Act, and results will be released only at aggregated levels in order to protect the sensitive nature of the information provided by respondents.

Ten years have gone by since the last full census, and there is an urgent need to get new and updated data so that the government of Palau can evaluate the effectiveness of their current policies, as well as develop new policies to ensure progress in achieving the country's economic and social development objectives.

Funding for the census is provided by the United States Department of the Interior. **(SPC)**

Red Cross assists As Lito house fire victims

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter responded to Lana Drive in As Lito in the afternoon of April 16, 2015, for a house fire. The fire destroyed a duplex home with all its contents, and displaced two families with a total of eight occupants. No one

was hurt in the incident.

Fire crews were able to quickly extinguish the fire and prevent its spread to neighboring areas.

The American Red Cross Disaster Action Team provided temporary shelter and assistance

for food, clothing and other personal needs.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of our generous donors and community, which gives us the means and resources to continue the Red Cross mission of providing

hope and relief to victims of disasters," said Paul W. Camacho, Emergency Services director of the American Red Cross. "The American Red Cross also encourages all residents to have working smoke detectors."

For information regarding the Red Cross, contact Camacho at (670) 234-3459. **(ARC)**



A fire destroyed this duplex home on Lana Drive in As Lito in the afternoon of April 16, 2015.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IN AN EMERGENCY

Red Cross launches a powerful new app

The American Red Cross announces the release of its new Emergency App, which gives people instant access to weather alerts, life-saving information and ways to contact family and friends in one free, easy-to-use app for mobile devices.

This all-inclusive app provides expert advice on what to do in case of disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, home fires, wildfires and more. The free Emergency App is available in app stores for smartphones and tablets by searching for the American Red Cross or by going to redcross.org/apps.

"When an emergency occurs, it's important for families to stay safe and connected," said Paul Camacho, Emergency Services director of the NMI Chapter. "Our Emergency App does that. It covers 14 different types of disasters and lets users customize more than 35 emergency alerts so that they will know

what to do no matter where they live or travel."

"Family Safe" is a new, unique feature that allows the app user to notify loved ones who are in an area affected by an emergency or disaster. The recipient can instantly see the alert details as well as specific "what to do now" steps, and then respond with either "I'm safe" or "I'm not safe." This feature works even if the recipient has not downloaded the Emergency App.

The Emergency App has many features, including:

■ Emergency first aid information for situations such as heart attacks, heat-related emergencies as well as water safety information;

■ Preloaded content so users can access guidance from Red Cross experts even without mo-

bile connectivity;

■ A single map with open Red Cross shelter locations and weather information;

■ A home fire section with detailed prevention and safety tips as well as Red Cross "After the Fire" information; and

■ A "Make a Plan" feature to help families plan what to do and where to go if a disaster strikes.

In addition to smartphones and tablets, this feature will be available on the new Apple Watch and can be downloaded from the Apple Watch App Store starting April 24.

Red Cross apps have been downloaded more than 6 million times and nearly 400 million alerts have been sent since the launch of the first app in 2012. In the past year alone, more than 350 million pages

were viewed and the "I'm Safe" feature was accessed just over 550,000 times across all preparedness apps.

While apps can help prepare someone for disasters, it's important to note that they are not substitutes for training. People can take Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED courses so they'll know what to do in case help is delayed. They can get information and register at redcross.org/TakeAClass.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross. **(ARC)**

Business

Threats ahead seen for global economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The world's financial leaders see a number of threats facing a global economy still on an uneven road to recovery with U.S. and European officials worrying that Greece will default on its debt.

The finance ministers and central bank governors ended three days of meetings in Washington determined to work toward "a more robust, balanced and job-rich economy" while admitting there are risks in reaching that objective, the steering committee of the International Monetary Fund said in its communique Saturday.

Seeking to resolve Athens'

debt crisis, Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis held a series of talks with other finance officials on the sidelines of the meetings. The focus now shifts to Riga, Latvia, where European Union finance ministers meet next week.

The head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, said it was "urgent" to resolve the current dispute between Greece and its creditors. He said that while the international finance system had been strengthened since the 2008 crisis, a Greek default would still put the global economy into "unchartered waters" with its effect hard to estimate.

Draghi told reporters he did

not want to even contemplate the chance of a Greek default on its debt. But French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said he thought any damage would be confined to Greece because euro zone countries had established measures to protect themselves from any spillover effects.

Seeking to assure financial markets, which fluctuated considerably on Friday over the possibility of a Greek default, Sapin said nothing had changed on the issue as a result of the weekend meetings. He said it was up to the Greek government to present credible, assessable solutions to its economic problems.

Austerity's legacy: British election focused on UK economy

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister David Cameron and his main opponent agree on one thing going into Britain's May 7 election: Voters should choose the next leader based on the health of the economy.

The question is whether the patient is recovering or is still on life support after the global financial crisis.

After five years of budget cuts, Cameron is focusing on the headline numbers. Inflation is down, employment is up and

the economy is growing at the fastest rate among large industrialized nations. The Conservatives need five more years to cement the gains and ensure that benefits trickle down to everyone, Cameron says.

The opposition Labour Party is urging voters to look behind the headlines. Real earnings are below pre-crisis levels, employment figures are inflated by low-skill jobs, and the safety net that protects the poorest in society has been gutted, Labour leader

Ed Miliband says. The use of food banks has soared as economic insecurity increased under Cameron's government.

While politicians are crisscrossing the country promising to control immigration, protect the National Health Service, build homes and improve education, the election boils down to a simple question: Did the Conservative-led government chart the right course through the worst recession since the 1930s?

Face hard realities or risk losing job

Q: After only six months in my new job, I am afraid I might be fired. Several co-workers have told our manager that I make frequent errors, dress unprofessionally and am not well-regarded by customers. While I admit to making mistakes and being somewhat disorganized, I believe these attacks are unwarranted and exaggerated.

Unfortunately, my boss seems to believe my accusers. She has told me that my behavior is unacceptable, and I already know my upcoming performance review will not be good. When I try to argue that my work is not really that bad, she accuses me of "giving her attitude." I can't afford to have another failure on my resume, so how do I save my job?

A: To have any hope of turning this around, you must first face some hard, cold realities. During your short tenure, you have developed a reputation for sloppy work, alienated your co-workers and aggravated your manager. With a troubled job history, you may find it difficult to obtain another position.

Given these circumstances, the worst thing you can do is further provoke your boss. If you continue to argue that her perceptions are incorrect, she will eventually add "hard to

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*.



manage" to your list of deficiencies, and that will probably seal your fate.

Instead of trying to prove your manager wrong, ask her for suggestions on improving your performance. Have a detailed discussion of her expectations and explain how you plan to meet them. After that, make every effort to be the kind of employee she wants you to be.

To increase your odds of success, carefully examine your previous job losses and see if you can spot a pattern. Unless you identify what you need to do differently, history is quite likely to repeat itself.

Q: My new co-workers have terrible email etiquette. They constantly send dirty jokes and personal pictures to everyone in our group. Recently, I sent an email to my former supervisor saying that this department is full of childish idiots. He apparently decided to forward the email to my current boss.

She proceeded to send his email to all my coworkers

with a note telling them to stop sending inappropriate messages. Unfortunately, my original comments were still included, so now everyone is mad at me. Do you think I should apologize?

A: I have seldom seen so many violations of proper email protocol in one single event. Your colleagues' offensive messages were clearly out of line, but you also erred by putting your inflammatory remarks in writing. As you have now learned, email insults are risky because you never know who may see them.

Your former boss should have asked permission before forwarding your criticisms, and the current one should not have publicized your private comments. So there are plenty of offenses to go around.

By way of apology, you might simply explain that you had no intention of lodging an official complaint. However, considering the recent email issues, you might want to give that explanation verbally.

Nation

In Puerto Rico, a push to revive indigenous culture



In this April 10, 2015 photo, Wanda Ivette Diaz enunciates the Arawakan word for, "touch" during a language class for children, in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico. AP

SAN LORENZO, Puerto Rico (AP)—In Puerto Rico's misty, bamboo-studded mountains, elementary school students are studying a nearly extinct language, beating on drums and growing native crops like cassava and sweet potato as they learn about the indigenous people who lived on the island before Christopher Columbus.

The children in four towns in the island's southeast corner

play a ceremonial ball game that was called batey by the native Tainos, who were all but wiped out during colonial times. The boys and girls also learn words from the local Arawak language, which was in part rebuilt with help from linguists, and still exists in varying forms among other native groups in the hemisphere.

Now, a group of academics and educators hope to expand the Taino education program

to other public schools around the U.S. territory in an effort to teach children this little known part of the territory's history.

"If you don't know your roots, you don't know yourself," said anthropologist Carlalynne Yarey Melendez, director of the Taino cultural organization that runs the educational program. "There are so many communities and schools that want the classes, but I can't keep up with the demand."

Empty chairs honor 168 victims of Oklahoma City bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Every day when Dr. Rosslyn Biggs goes to work as a federal government veterinarian she is reminded of her mother, one of 168 people killed in the Oklahoma City bombing and honored Sunday on the 20th anniversary of the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil until Sept. 11, 2001.

Biggs has the same job once held by her mother, Dr. Margaret L. "Peggy" Clark, as a food safety veterinarian at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She interacts often with some of the people who worked with and recall her

mother's professionalism.

"I remember her spirit and her dedication," Biggs said as she and other family members gathered around an empty chair adorned with flowers in a field of empty chairs designed to memorialize the victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing.

"It's wonderful to see that people still remember and still care," Biggs said.

Former President Bill Clinton, who was president when the attack occurred, spoke at Sunday's service at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

once stood. Memorial officials estimated that 2,500 people attended the observance.

"Oklahoma City, you have chosen well," Clinton said. "For 20 years you have honored the memories of your loved ones. You have inspired us with the power of renewal."

Clinton said the city has recovered from the terrorist attack "in the face of mad, crazy people who think that differences are all that matter."

"The whole world needs you now," the former president said in reference to other deadly terrorist attacks that have occurred around the world.

Sperm bank sued after donor details emerge 7 years later

ATLANTA (AP)—He was good on paper: Eloquent, mature, healthy and smart to boot.

That's why Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson say they chose Donor 9623 to be the biological father of their child.

Then last June, almost seven years after Collins gave birth to a son conceived with his sperm, they got a batch of emails from the sperm bank that unexpectedly—and perhaps mistakenly—included the donor's name. That set them on a sleuthing mission that quickly revealed he is schizophrenic, dropped out of

college and had been arrested for burglary, they said in a lawsuit filed March 31 in Atlanta.

On top of that, the photo of him they'd seen when deciding on a donor had been altered to remove a large mole on his cheek, the suit says.

Collins and Hanson said the Atlanta sperm bank promoted the donor's sperm, saying it came from a man with an IQ of 160, an undergraduate degree in neuroscience and a master's degree in artificial intelligence, who was pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience engineering. He was eloquent, "mature be-

yond his years" and had "an impressive health history," sperm bank staff told them, according to the lawsuit.

"They represented him, both orally and in their donor literature, to be the best of the best," a lawyer for the pair, Nancy Hersh, told The Associated Press.

The women, who live in Ontario, Canada, sued Xytex Corp., its parent company, sperm bank employees and the man they say was the misrepresented donor—the biological father of at least three dozen children, according to the lawsuit.

Asia

More than 100,000 officials are caught in China austerity push

BEIJING (AP)—The top anti-graft body of China's Communist Party said Monday that more than 100,000 officials have been reprimanded since late 2012 for violating policies mandating more austere working practices.

The party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in its monthly report that 5,340 officials were reprimanded in December 2014, the most recent month studied. That pushed the two-year total of re-

rimanded officials to 102,168.

The party introduced the rules in December 2012 requiring officials to minimize meetings, cut government spending and follow strict housing and vehicle limits.

The party has also launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign that it says has ensnared tens of thousands of officials, including top members of the party. The campaigns have hit sales of luxury items, fine dining and gambling in the Macau

special region.

Over the weekend, the party announced plans to launch a campaign to improve the behavior of officials at the county level and above, with particular focus on abuses of power and disloyalty to the party.

On Friday, the Finance Ministry said the central government would further encourage frugality by cutting budgets for overseas travel, official vehicles and receptions by 11.7 percent this year.

S. Korean police question dozens after violent ferry protest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean police said they were questioning dozens of protesters Sunday over violence that broke out at a rally denouncing the government's handling of a ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people a year ago.

Police used water cannons and pepper spray to break up thousands of protesters in the capital, Seoul, on Saturday night. Dozens of police officers and protesters were injured during the demonstration.

The protesters, led by rela-

tives of victims of the ferry disaster, tried unsuccessfully to march to the presidential Blue House. More than 70 police buses used to block a downtown street leading to the Blue House were damaged or vandalized, said an official from the National Police Agency, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

About 80 people were being questioned over the demonstration, the official said. Twenty others who were also detained have been released.

The demonstration capped off

a week of vigils and rallies commemorating the anniversary of the ferry disaster. A total of 304 people—most of them students from a single high school—died when the ferry Sewol sank off South Korea's southwest coast on April 16, 2014.

There's frustration among South Koreans who see their government as having failed to make meaningful improvements to safety standards and hold high-level officials accountable for a disaster blamed in part on incompetence and corruption.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tsunami advisory lifted after quake hits south of Japan

TOKYO (AP)—School children were evacuated to higher ground on some islands and buildings swayed in Taipei after a strong earthquake struck Monday in seas east of Taiwan and south of Okinawa. Japan's Meteorological Agency issued an advisory for a tsunami of up to 1 meter (3 feet), but it was cancelled just over an hour later. The public broadcaster NHK said there were no initial reports of damage. The epicenter of the magnitude 6.8 quake was at a shallow point near the Yonaguni islands, the agency said. It said no tsunami was detected. Television footage of the area showed calm seas, but as a precaution school children in some low-lying areas of islands in the area were evacuated to safer locations. In Taiwan's capital, Taipei, CCTV footage from a television broadcaster, TBS, showed signs and lights swinging from the ceiling of a newsroom, and some residents rushing into the streets after the quake struck.

Japan, US talks seeking compromise on farm, auto trade

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's top trade negotiator is meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, seeking to resolve differences on autos and

farm exports that are hindering progress toward a Pacific Rim trade deal. Economy minister Akira Amari, Japan's top trade negotiator, described the talks, which began late Sunday as "extremely severe." Amari said Monday that the two sides were still trying to resolve differences over removing trade barriers in key areas. Japan wants greater market opening for its exports of autos and auto parts. The U.S. hopes to export more rice, pork and other farm products to Japan. The talks between Japan and the U.S. are part of negotiations among 12 nations participating in the U.S.-led Trans Pacific Partnership, which eventually aims to create a free trade zone in the Asia-Pacific region.

2 Indian policemen arrested in killing of Kashmiri youth

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Two Indian policemen have been arrested in the killing of a teenage boy during weekend protests in the disputed region of Kashmir, police said. Towns across the Himalayan territory were mostly quiet Sunday, following two days of clashes between Indian law enforcement authorities and anti-India demonstrators. Streets in the main city of Srinagar were tense, with armed police and paramilitary soldiers inspecting vehicles and questioning people.

Police said in a statement that they arrested two policemen after a preliminary investigation revealed one had ordered the other to fire his rifle at stone-throwing protesters in the northwestern village of Narbal on Saturday "in violation of laid down SOP (standard operating procedure)."

Indian farmers protest govt plans to ease land acquisition

NEW DELHI (AP)—Tens of thousands of flag-waving farmers rallied in India's capital Sunday to protest a government plan to ease rules for obtaining land for industry and development projects. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said existing rules, established in 2013 to protect land owners from land grabbing and forced relocation, were creating obstacles that were spooking investors. He and industrial leaders say the rules should be simplified to entice foreign business and boost manufacturing in India. Modi passed an executive order in December doing away with some of the rules. The unilateral move upset opposition parties and rights groups that had long fought for legal safeguards on land acquisition, and they vowed to fight any effort to make the changes permanent after the order expired earlier this month.

World

Survivor says Smugglers locked hundreds in hold of capsized boat

ROME (AP)—A smuggler's boat crammed with hundreds of people overturned off Libya's coast as rescuers approached, causing what could be the Mediterranean's deadliest known migrant tragedy and intensifying pressure on the European Union Sunday to finally meet demands for decisive action.

Survivor accounts of the number aboard varied, with the Italian Coast Guard saying that the capsized boat had a capacity for "hundreds" of people. Italian prosecutors said a Bangladeshi survivor flown to Sicily for treatment told them 950 people were aboard, including hundreds who had been locked in the hold by smugglers. Earlier, authorities said a survivor told them 700 migrants were on board.

It was not immediately clear if they were referring to the same survivor, and Premier



In this photo taken at the Palermo harbor on April 15 and made available Sunday, April 19, migrants receive relief after disembarking in Palermo, Sicily, Italy.

Matteo Renzi said Italian authorities were "not in a position to confirm or verify" how many were on board when the boat set out from Libya.

Eighteen ships joined the rescue effort, but only 28 survivors and 24 bodies had been pulled from the water by nightfall, Renzi said.

These small numbers make more sense if hundreds of people were locked in the hold, because with so much weight down below, "surely the boat would have sunk," said Gen. Antonino Iraso, of the Italian Border Police, which has deployed boats in the operation.

Yemen Shiite rebel leader vows not to surrender amid strikes

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A Shiite rebel leader in Yemen vowed to not surrender Sunday amid Saudi-led airstrikes in a rambling speech that rejected U.N. efforts to halt violence there, even as the political party of the country's former leader welcomed international efforts for a cease-fire.

The speech by rebel leader Abdul-Malek al-Houthi, his first since the Saudi campaign began, offered signs of cracks appearing in his alliance with Yemen's one-time President Ali Abdullah Saleh. However, his speech signaled no sign of his rebels backing down from their offensive after earlier

seizing the capital, Sanaa, and forcing President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi into exile.

"The great Yemeni people will never surrender and never be subjugated," al-Houthi said.

Saudi Arabia and allied countries began their airstrike campaign on March 26, hoping to roll back the Houthi advance, which began in September. Western governments and Sunni Arab countries accuse the Houthis, who largely are Zayidi Shiites, of receiving military support from Iran. Iran and the rebels deny that, though the Islamic Republic publicly has sent humanitarian

aid into the country.

As of Tuesday, the strikes have killed hundreds of Houthi fighters and at least 364 civilians, the U.N. has said.

As al-Houthi blamed Saudi Arabia, the United States and Israel for orchestrating the campaign against his forces, the political party of Yemen's former longtime autocrat said it welcomed a U.N. resolution calling for a cease-fire in the country. In a statement on its website, Saleh's General People's Congress said that it would "respond positively" to the U.N. Security Council resolution issued last week.

Video: Islamic State kills Ethiopian Christians in Libya

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Islamic State militants in Libya shot and beheaded groups of captive Ethiopian Christians, a video purportedly from the extremists showed Sunday. The attack widens the circle of nations affected by the group's atrocities while showing its growth beyond a self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq.

The release of the 29-minute video comes a day after Afghanistan's president blamed the extremists for a suicide attack in his country that killed at least 35 people—and underscores the chaos gripping Libya after its 2011 civil war and the killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

It also mirrored a film released in February showing militants beheading 21 captured Egyptian Christians on a Libyan beach, which immediately drew Egyptian airstrikes

on the group's suspected positions in Libya. Whether Ethiopia would—or could—respond with similar military force remains unclear.

Ethiopia long has drawn the anger of Islamic extremists over its military's attacks on neighboring Somalia, whose population is almost entirely Muslim. While the militant in the video at one point said "Muslim blood that was shed under the hands of your religion is not cheap," it did not specifically mention the Ethiopian government's actions.

The video, released via militant social media accounts and websites, could not be independently verified by The Associated Press. However, it corresponded to other videos released by the Islamic State group and bore the symbol of its al-Furqan media arm.

The video starts with what

it called a history of Christian-Muslim relations, followed by scenes of militants destroying churches, graves and icons. A masked fighter brandishing a pistol delivers a long statement, saying Christians must convert to Islam or pay a special tax prescribed by the Quran.

It shows one group of captives, identified as Ethiopian Christians, purportedly held by an Islamic State affiliate in eastern Libya known as Barqa Province. It also shows another purportedly held by an affiliate in the southern Libyan calling itself the Fazzan Province. The video then switches between footage of the captives in the south being shot dead and the captives in the east being beheaded on a beach. It was not immediately possible to estimate how many captives were killed or confirm their identities.

Focus



First **WWI** gas attack produced new horrors, changed warfare

By **RAF CASERT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STEEN - STRATE, Belgium (AP)—As a spring breeze wafted into his trench, commander Georges Lamour of the French 73rd infantry saw something almost surreal drift his way.

A yellow-green cloud.

He barely had time to react. “All my trenches are choked,” Lamour cried into the field telephone to headquarters. “I am falling myself!”

These were the last words heard from Lamour. World War I, and warfare itself, were never the same.

Chlorine gas—sent crawling in favorable winds over Flanders Fields from German positions—sowed terror and agony for the first time on April 22, 1915. The era of chemical weaponry had dawned. The weapon of mass slaughter came to symbolize the ruthlessness and, many say, futility of the 1914-1918 Great War.

“It is a new element in warfare. It is indiscriminate,” said Piet Chielens, curator at the In Flanders’ Fields Museum in nearby Ypres. And what’s more, he said, “you create psychological terror.”

Foaming at the mouth, crazed and blinded, the French soldiers fled in all directions—sucking for oxygen, finding poison instead. The chlorine seeped into body fluids and ate away at eyes, throat and lungs. Some 1,200 French soldiers were killed in the chaos of that first 5-minute gas attack and the fighting that followed. Lamour, like scores of comrades, was never found.

“You drown in your own lungs,” Chielens said.

Today, cyclists crisscross these same fields and farmers plow around monuments honoring the first gas victims. On Tuesday, the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will hold a commemorative meeting close to the fields. The organization today monitors reports that chlorine gas has repeatedly been used in Syria’s civil war.

“Nothing to report”

A century ago Tuesday, German forces gathered their best and brightest at army headquarters in Tiel, some 30 miles (50 kilometers) behind the front line, for a momentous discussion.

Commanders had already been waiting 10 days for favorable winds, huddled in a patrician mansion lined with maps and dotted with landscape models. Tension had

steadily risen after the Schlieffen Plan to smash through Belgium and take Paris by storm bogged down in Flanders and northern France. Germany was bent on breaking the stalemate of trench warfare. All options were open.

Holding back some German commanders was their sense of military honor. Some argued that deploying more troops would achieve a bigger breakthrough.

Fritz Haber, a chemical expert and future winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, preached for more gas for more shock and awe. Others wondered if gas could be trusted to work as advertised.

Exasperated, Chief of General Staff Erich von Falkenhayn decided: Tomorrow we use the gas, or not at all.

Across the line, Lamour’s French forces were reporting from the trenches: “Rien a signaler”—nothing to report. That might have been different had they been able to peer a bit further across no-man’s land—at how German troops had dug in, under cover of night, more than 5,000 gas cylinders with tubes pointing their way.

The next morning, German trenches were filled with soldiers ready to pounce once the gas had cleared. The plan was to release the chlorine in the frosty morning hours, when it would cling best to the surface

and give soldiers a full day to advance. But a windless morning came and went. The breeze picked up only in the afternoon. At 5 p.m. the gas cylinders were opened, with devastating effect.

Once the gas cleared, the soldiers jumped out and made more progress than they had in months. Men, horses, rats, even insects—all lay dead or choking before them.

“The effect of that gas was enormous,” said historian Ann Callens. “Even the German troops and certainly the German generals were completely astonished.”

“In one hour’s time, they had a gap of more than 6 kilometers (4 miles) So the town of Ypres was nearly in their hands,” said Callens, author of “Gas! Ieper 1915, the first gas attack.”

Dusk was closing in fast though and lack of full confidence in gas came to haunt the Germans that day.

“The German army command has no great belief in this new weapon,” Chielens said. “So they don’t have a big infantry division behind it. That is not enough to result in a complete breakthrough.”

After April 22, the surprise factor evaporated and the stalemate endured.

“It seems pretty certain we shall retaliate”

But the genie was out of the

bottle. The Germans needed only to look at how the prevailing westerly winds bent Flanders’ stately trees toward their own positions to know that gas would inevitably come drifting their way. They could celebrate a momentary victory, but the war was about to become a lot uglier for both sides.

Laurence Cadbury of the British chocolate dynasty had come to Flanders to help as an ambulance driver. Cadbury, a pacifist Quaker, had an immediate grasp of what the Germans’ use of the gas horror meant.

“It seh.”

The first use by allied forces came in September, when the British unleashed poison gas on the Germans at the battle of Loos, just across from Ypres in northern France.

Rival armies ultimately launched 146 gas attacks in Belgium, which covered only a small patch of the Western Front. The Germans used about 150 tons of gas in their first attack. Germany ultimately used 68,000 tons. The Allies used even more: 82,000 tons.

The lethal power of more sophisticated gases increased the horror by the month, even as the improvement of gas mask designs required more and more poison to be deployed. The invention of gas shells fired by artillery eliminated dependence on favorable winds.

The last gas attack came just three days before the armistice of Nov. 11, 1918. Historians estimate that more than 1 million soldiers were exposed to gas—and 90,000 killed.

“Mon bien cher Georges”

Peace brought no end to the suffering caused by the weapon.

“A lot of the effects did not kill you but they were lasting. You have chronic bronchitis, pneumonia,” Chielens said. “The veterans of the war took it with them to their graves.”

Dormant shells littered farmland. Even today, farmers suffer health problems after digging up this toxic harvest.

The French army told Georges Lamour’s wife, Angele, that he either died from gas or was taken prisoner. She kept believing her husband was alive.

Month after month, she wrote letters to “Mon bien cher Georges.” On May 2, 1918, three years after his presumed death, she still wrote: “Is springtime coming so late for you as it is for us?”

Sometimes, their three children took to pen and paper.

Lamour’s son Etienne wrote on Dec. 8, 1915: “Mon cher papa, Mama allowed me to write you today because I came in first in the school exams, first in the division’s literary contest, and second in German.”

7 ways to put the joy into car shopping (seriously)

By THE JEAN KNOWS CARS
STAFF
JEANKNOWSCARS.COM

How does shopping for a new car fit into your life? Is it right up there at the desirability level of a trip to the spa, or way down low next to a root canal?

Let me tell you how I feel about new-car shopping: You should be thrilled. You're about to buy a brand-new car! You should take your time to revel in every moment and make the whole experience be about you. The lucky dealer owes it to you to listen carefully to you, to give you answers that make sense, and to build your enthusiasm, not sidetrack it or knock it down.

To get there, you need to put yourself into the right mindset. Then you'll be able to put all the elements in place that will make the experience work for you.

1. Believe that this is all about you.

It's your money. It's going to be your car. Too many people let car shopping feel like a dreaded chore. Don't. Going on a tropical vacation, or buying a fabulous piece of jewelry, the hottest new putter or a collector's edition book ... those things are fun. Buying a car should be

all of that, multiplied by about 100. You are spending enough money to give you the absolute right to actually enjoy choosing and closing the deal on your car.

2. Know what you want before you walk in.

You can greatly reduce the stress of car buying by walking into the dealership already armed with information you

need. Every brand you could possibly be interested in has an online presence these days. Go to the manufacturers' websites and play with the excellent online car configurator tools. Specifically, try to understand what packages are available on the model you're interested in, and what different trim levels your vehicle of choice can

come equipped with. Print that information, and put it on a clipboard. Once you've narrowed down the different cars you like, comparison shop on dealer websites. The more you have explored and decided on your own needs and wants, the more you'll be able to relax and enjoy the shopping experience.

3. Know how much you have to spend. Really.

It's a good time to check your credit score and get pre-qualified by your bank or credit

union. Find out about their loan rates and deals. In short, don't show up at the dealership until you are clear on the financial aspects and know your spending limit. It makes no sense to be distracted by cars on the lot that are priced beyond your means. Knowing your financial status sends a message to your salesperson that you're serious about buying.

One last thing: Don't be surprised if the dealer can get you a better rate on your loan.

4. Expect respect from your salesperson.

Start the relationship on a high note. Make an appointment and start to establish a connection before you just wander in. You may also get an idea of your compatibility before you ever walk through the door. Assume that the salesperson is a professional and is there to help you find your dream car and facilitate your ownership. It's not fair to start the process with a

chip on your shoulder or an assumption that the salesperson is out to cheat you—not fair to the salesperson, but also not fair to yourself.

5. Make your first trip to the dealership a fact-finding mission.

This is a good time to get your bearings without the pressure of decision-making. This is also a great time for that first appointment, to decide if you click with the salesperson. Bring your clipboard and a list of any questions you might have. Tell them upfront that you won't be testing, just shopping. Say it again if you have to.

6. Don't let anyone set the timetable for you.

Don't be in a hurry at any stage of the process. When you're ready for your test drive, bring along all the props and baggage of your daily life—dog crates, child seats, briefcases, or whatever else you know you'll load into the car the minute you own it—and make sure it fits. Take all the time you need—all the time you want—to truly test drive the car. Let absolutely nobody pressure you into making a decision before you're ready.

7. Be prepared to keep trying, or walk away, if the salesperson doesn't give you the experience you want.

This is the most important element. You are not required to work with the first salesperson you encounter. You don't have to buy any one car from any one dealership. There are lots of fish in the sea dying to jump on your hook. Your best weapons are being ready and willing to spend the amount of money you have decided you can spend, along with being ready and willing to walk away if the deal isn't going to happen. You don't need to be rude. You don't have to get mad. You just need to be your own best advocate.



MOTURING Q & A

Guessing-game approach to car repair results in big bill

By Paul Brand
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have a 2006 Dodge Dakota that has a whirring noise that appears to be coming from the gas tank area. One mechanic diagnosed the problem as a bearing in the differential. He replaced all parts but the noise was still there. A very reputable transmission company diagnosed the problem as trouble in the overdrive and totally rebuilt the transmission with all new parts. After I spent \$4,000, the noise is still there. A mechanic friend said that it was something in the fuel pump. He had that same type of noise in his Dodge Dakota. He replaced the fuel pump in his truck. Problem solved. Do you

think that the fuel pump is the problem? The transmission company volunteered to install a new fuel pump for free, but I would have to pay for the pump. I am OK with that, but I felt that I need one more person to help me out.

A: I always cringe when I read questions like this. It appears a dartboard approach failed—at great expense! Since the noise doesn't affect drivability or reliability at this point, I would have suggested you apply the "KISS" principle—diagnose and confirm the problem before spending any money.

The noise could very well be coming from the fuel pump. In most cases, you can hear this by just turning on the key in a quiet environment and listening to the pump

run for a few seconds. And with the vehicle running and in park, a mechanic's stethoscope should be able to pick up the whine from the pump inside the fuel tank. Another symptom is the fuel pump drawing significantly more amperage than it should.

The key here is that a loud fuel pump should be audible with the vehicle stationary, while most transmission noises are heard while driving. I'm sorry for the expenses you've incurred, but if the noise is coming from the fuel pump, take the shop's offer of free labor.

Motoring note

I recently received this wonder-

ful letter from Harold Swanson.

"I have a 1997 Saturn SL with 240,000 miles. I get 34 mpg and about 175 miles to a quart of oil. I can't find a new car that has the things that I want and have grown accustomed to. Here is a list of my wants.

- Glass headlights—why should I polish plastic?
- Be able to see, touch and change spark plugs and wires in less than two hours.
- See and fill engine fluids.
- A radiator cap.
- A large horn button in the middle of the steering wheel.
- A door sill in which I can knock the snow off of my shoes without damaging the soft plastic body.

Does a new car exist that has the things I want? Is this too much to ask? I saw a 1971 Maverick for sale with 6,014 miles—it probably has the features I want. I've had a used '48 Plymouth for almost 46 years, a new '97 Saturn for 17 years and a used '06 Pontiac for eight years—and you thought YOU were frugal."

I am "snug," which means frugal with speed, style and durability! I've owned and driven my '70 Corvette for 43 years and I have a '47 Willys CJ2A and a '52 Willys M38 military Jeep.

A: I've found the perfect new vehicle for you, Harold. It has all the features you're looking for, plus more—huge glass greenhouse for great visibility, massive towing capacity, diesel engine

for good mileage (and no spark plugs), incredible durability and on-board sleeping quarters!

Yep, a new semi-tractor from International, Kenworth, Peterbilt, Freightliner, Mack or Volvo. Not the easiest to parallel-park, but then again big enough to create its own parking spot if necessary.

Do any readers have suggestions for new vehicles that meet Harold's requirements?

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paul.brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

Director reveals plot for 'Star Wars' film "Rogue One"

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—The Jedis are all but extinct, the Old Republic is in turmoil and the threat of the Death Star is looming in "Rogue One," fans learned at Star Wars Celebration on Sunday.

Director Gareth Edwards ("Godzilla") debuted a tantalizing concept reel to preview the mysterious film, which is part of a series of films exploring other stories outside of the core "Star Wars" saga.

"For more than 1,000 generations, the Jedi Knights were the guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic. Before the dark times. Before the Empire," the voiceover reads, as the camera tracks to show a ghostly Death Star hovering in the clouds.

'Jane the Virgin,' John Oliver among Peabody awardees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jane the Virgin" and John Oliver's satirical news show are among the winners in the first round of this year's Peabody Awards.

The Peabody panel deemed the CW sitcom "Jane the Virgin" a "smart, self-aware telenovela" and its star Gina Rodriguez "incandescent."

HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" is a "worthy addition to the news-as-comedy genre," and offers "fresh, feisty investigative reports," the panel said in announcing its entertainment awards this week.

Others winners include "The Americans"; "Fargo"; "The Honorable Woman"; "Inside Amy Schumer"; "The Knick"; "Rectify" and "Black Mirror," an English TV anthology of dark tales.

Individual and institutional Peabodys are being awarded to David Attenborough, the veteran British nature documentarian, and "Afropop Worldwide," a public radio series about African music and its international incarnations.

Peabody news and radio winners will be announced Monday, followed on Thursday by honorees in the documentary, public service, education and children's programming areas.

Winners will receive their statuettes May 31 in New York as the awards take a step toward glamor with its first red-carpet evening ceremony, hosted by Fred Armisen (whose "Portlandia" comedy is a past Peabody recipient). The ceremony will be featured in a Peabody special airing June 21 on Pivot.

Set between the third and the fourth movies in the "Star Wars" saga, the film will follow a band of resistance fighters who unite to steal the Death Star plans and "bring a new hope," referring to the subtitle of the original "Star Wars."

Felicity Jones, who recently garnered an Oscar nomination for her role in "The Theory of

Everything" is the only confirmed cast member for the film, which will shoot in London this summer for a Dec. 16, 2016 release. Jones will play a rebel soldier, the director said.

Edwards said that her character will not just be a stoic soldier, but a complex, fully rounded human.

"We wanted to see fear,

warmth, all of those aspects that everybody has," he said, excited that Jones embodies "the complete package."

In the world of "Rogue One," Edwards said the "absence of Jedi is omnipresent."

The characters in the film realize that the "gods are not coming to save us," he said. "It comes down to a group of

people who don't have magical powers who band together to bring hope to the galaxy."

"Cinderella" scribe Chris Weitz wrote the screenplay based on an idea from visual effects supervisor John Knoll.

Josh Trank, who is set to direct the next, still untitled "Star Wars" anthology film, did not attend the event although he was

originally scheduled to appear.

Kiri Hart, vice president of development for Lucasfilm, said that the anthology films will vary in "scale and genre."

"We wanted freedom to do some films that would be able to stand on their own and tell unique stories," she said.

"They can still feel like 'Star Wars' and be 'Star Wars.'"

ACM Awards a family affair for pop star Taylor Swift

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Taylor Swift may have left country for pop—but she had a memorable moment at Sunday's Academy of Country Music Awards.

The singer was one of seven recipients of the 50th Anniversary Milestone Award, and a video package highlighting her career and success played before her mother, who recently announced she is battling cancer, presented her daughter with the award.

"I am a very proud mom," said Andrea Swift, who also called her daughter "brave enough to explore her musical curiosity."

"You showed me who you are with the grace" Swift said of the country world when she announced she was releasing her first full-blown pop album, "1989," last year. "I am so happy I learned how to write songs in a town like Nashville."

The former country singer, who sat next to her father Scott Swift, danced along in typical form at the ACM Awards, especially when Miranda Lambert and Martina McBride performed.

Lambert was on a red-hot winning streak—and she even rocked a red-hot bustier and disheveled hair when she performed "Little Red Wagon."

Lambert, the night's top nominee with eight, won album of the year for "Platinum," female vocalist of the year and twice for single record of the year for "Automatic"—as a performer and songwriter.

"I love all of those albums so much—I have them all," said Lambert, who beat out Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Eric Church and Little Big Town for the honor.

Lambert, a fashion favorite last year, wowed again in a flowing, plunging dress on the red carpet. Inside the venue, she wore white pants and a white top with a black sheer center. She also accepted the 50th Anniversary Milestone Award, given to her by Reese Witherspoon and Sofia Vergara (Lambert wrote a song for their new film, "Hot Pursuit.")

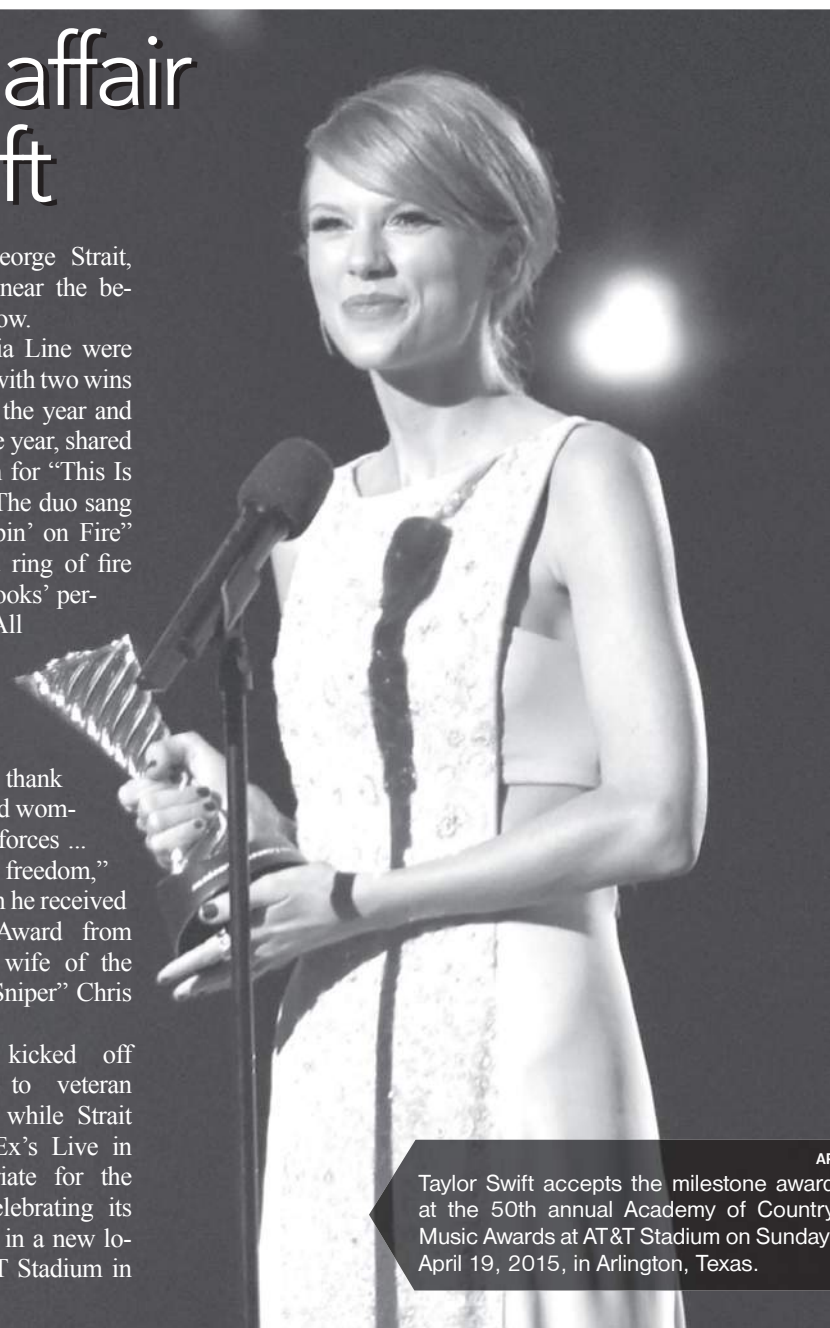
Other recipients of the anniversary honor include Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, Brooks & Dunn, Kenny

Chesney and George Strait, who performed near the beginning of the show.

Florida Georgia Line were behind Lambert with two wins for vocal duo of the year and vocal event of the year, shared with Luke Bryan for "This Is How We Roll." The duo sang the groove "Sippin' on Fire" surrounded by a ring of fire onstage. And Brooks' performance of "All American Kind" included U.S. soldiers standing proudly.

"I'd like ... to thank all of our men and women in the armed forces ... protecting our freedom," Brooks said when he received the Milestone Award from Taya Kyle, the wife of the late "American Sniper" Chris Kyle.

The ACMs kicked off paying tribute to veteran Merle Haggard, while Strait sang "All My Ex's Live in Texas"—appropriate for the awards show celebrating its 50th anniversary in a new location, the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.



Taylor Swift accepts the milestone award at the 50th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at AT&T Stadium on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

'Furious 7' speeds ahead of the competition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even in its debut weekend, Kevin James' "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" sequel couldn't outpace "Furious 7."

The reigning box office champion might have slowed from its blockbuster debut, but "Furious 7" maintained first place for the third weekend in a row with an estimated \$29.1 million, according to box office tracker Rentrak on Sunday.

This brings the high-octane action movie's domestic total to a staggering \$294 million, well above the \$202.8 million that "Fast & Furious 6" had earned at the same point in the cycle in 2013. The film crossed the \$1 billion mark Friday.

"The film has set a new standard for the potential for box-of-

fice in the pre-summer month of April and has truly become part of movie folklore with its record setting numbers, strong reviews, spectacular word-of-mouth and of course the outpouring of support for late star Paul Walker," Rentrak's Senior Media Analyst Paul Dergarabedian said.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" came in a close second with an estimated \$24 million. While the PG-rated comedy didn't perform as well as the first film's \$31.8 million opening in 2009, it did surpass Sony's modest expectations. Also, it only cost \$30 million to produce.

"It's a great result. It's going to be very profitable for us and a big success," Sony's President of Worldwide Distribution Rory

Bruer said.

"It was something that Kevin really wanted to do and we wanted to do it with him," he said. "Kudos to Kevin for working so hard in promoting the film."

Dergarabedian said "Blart's" opening "proves that if you give the people what they want, you can make a tidy profit."

Meanwhile, the low-budget, social media themed thriller "Unfriended" took third place with \$16 million—sixteen times its production budget.

With "Furious 7" topping the charts again and a strong debut for "Unfriended," Universal's President of Domestic Distribution Nick Carpou marveled how both of films are "so successful at both ends of the spectrum."

"When you find success you look to repeat them," he said of Universal's partnership with Blumhouse on microbudget horror films. "It works."

"Unfriended" is the 11th microbudget film to open above \$15 million for Blumhouse. Other successes include "Ouija," "The Purge" series and "The Boy Next Door."

According to exit polls, audiences for "Unfriended" were 60 percent female and 74 percent under 25 years of age.

Rounding out the top five were holdovers "Home" and "The Longest Ride," with \$10.3 million and \$6.9 million, respectively.

Disney's animal film "Monkey Kingdom" debuted to \$4.7 million to claim the seventh spot, in line with last year's "Bears," also from DisneyNature.

1. **"Furious 7,"** \$29.1 million (\$167.9 million international).
2. **"Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2,"** \$24 million (\$7.1 million international)
3. **"Unfriended,"** \$16 million.
4. **"Home,"** \$10.3 million (10.4 million international).
5. **"The Longest Ride,"** \$6.9 million (\$2.1 million international).
6. **"Get Hard,"** \$4.8 million.
7. **"Monkey Kingdom,"** \$4.7 million.
8. **"Woman In Gold,"** \$4.6 million (\$1.1 million international).
9. **"The Divergent Series: Insurgent,"** \$4.2 million (\$4.1 million international).
10. **"Cinderella,"** \$3.9 million (\$7.5 million international).

George Lucas to Colbert: Why aren't you replacing Stewart?

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert came to the Tribeca Film Festival to interview filmmaker George Lucas, but the “Star Wars” creator had a question of his own.

“The perfect choice to replace that Jon Stewart fellow would have been you,” Lucas told Colbert on Friday. Why, he wanted to know, wasn’t he replacing him?

Colbert, who replaces David Letterman in September as host of “The Late Show” on CBS, tried to explain.

“Trevor Noah is a very funny guy,” he said of Stewart’s recently named replacement.

Moreover, he said, “I don’t want to be the guy to take over

from Jon Stewart. I worked for Jon Stewart at that show, and my memories will always be of him being the keenest, most intelligent, most beautifully deconstructive mind. ... And I would never, however successful I’d be, get out of his shadow.”

Lucas then suggested that Colbert wouldn’t need to get out from Stewart’s shadow; he could simply “start jumping on his body and shouting, ‘I won! I won!’”

“I’ll try that,” Colbert quipped.

The hour-long interview focused mostly on Lucas, however, and Colbert, sporting an ample white beard to match that of Lucas and appearing as him-



AP
George Lucas, left, and Stephen Colbert attend the Tribeca Talks: Director Series during the Tribeca Film Festival at the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center on Friday, April 17, 2015, in New York.

had no vocabulary for what you showed us.”

He says he still keeps a button from that screening, saying, “May the Force Be With You.”

The two men didn’t speak much about the much-anticipated new “Star Wars” trilogy, directed by J.J. Abrams, with the first installment, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” opening in December. Lucas, who sold the franchise and his Lucasfilm to Disney in 2012 for \$4.05 billion, said he doesn’t know what the film’s plot will be but looks forward to seeing it.

“The one thing I regret about having made ‘Star Wars’ is that I never got to just go and see it,” he said.

“I hope it’s successful,” he said. “I hope they do a great job.”

He added that the original saga was about a father, children and grandchildren.

“I’m hoping they take it in a different direction,” he said. “I have no idea what they’re doing.”

Lucas said one thing is sure: He’ll wait to see the movie on a big screen. Asked by Colbert how he feels about people watching movies on their phones, he said it didn’t anger him as much as it does some other filmmakers.

“They work best on a big screen,” he said. “If you want to see it on a cellphone, that’s fine with me, but it won’t be the full experience.”

Lucas spoke about the history of his biggest hits, starting with the 1973 “American Graffiti.” Studio executives didn’t like “Graffiti” at all at first, he said, and it ended up being enormously successful: It was made for \$700,000, he noted, and earned \$100 million.

Musical chairs: Who would Shelton want in his ‘Voice’ seat?

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Musical chairs is a common game on “The Voice.” Pharrell is sitting in a seat originally owned by CeeLo Green and once occupied by Usher, while Shakira and Gwen Stefani have filled in when Christina Aguilera took a hiatus from the show.

Blake Shelton said he has an idea who he would like to fill in his seat—if he ever took a break from the show, currently in its eighth season.

“I think Luke (Bryan) would be good—I do,” Shelton said of his fellow country music star in an interview Friday. “He’d be a good person in that chair.”

Shelton has been the winning coach on the series for four of the seven seasons. Adam Levine, who has won twice, has also stayed on the NBC competition show since it began in 2011.

Shelton said he’s not sure if other artists would sacrifice their careers like he has for “The Voice.”

“There also has to be an element of actually being willing to just give up, pretty much, your career to do it, your touring career,” he said. “I’m just lazy enough. I may be the only one that was willing to do that.”

“After 15 years of touring all the time, I was ready to sit in one spot for months at a time,” he added. “I know Luke loves to tour and he’s having fun with it.”

“The Voice” has helped Shelton—who was already a top country star—reach audiences outside of the country world. He said he takes the mentorship on the show seriously—and he still connects with the artists he’s worked with after the show ends.

“Well I need to stop because I feel like I am adopting half of these people that have been on my team,” he said, laughing. “We’re all human, and I don’t know how you can be around people that you have a connection with and that you have fun being around, and how that just ends because a TV show ends.”

self, not as his retired “Colbert Report” pundit, made clear that he’s a huge fan.

At age 13, he said, his world changed when he saw the first “Star Wars” with friends, hav-

ing won four tickets in a radio station contest in Charleston, South Carolina.

“We had no idea what it was going to be,” he said.

And then the music be-

gan, and the movie’s opening scroll appeared and everything was different.

“We couldn’t explain to anyone how the world was different now,” Colbert told Lucas. “We

Bobby Brown tells concert goers his ailing daughter is awake

ATLANTA (AP)—Bobby Brown told concert goers Saturday night that his daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown is awake nearly three months after she was found face down and unresponsive in a tub at her Georgia home.

In a video, Brown tells the crowd during a concert appear-

ance at the Verizon Theatre in Dallas, Texas, that “Bobbi is awake,” adding that “she is watching me.” The crowd screamed after his remark.

Brown’s family has said she’s “fighting for her life” since she was found unresponsive Jan. 31. The 21-year-old Bobbi Kristina is the only

daughter of Brown and the late Whitney Houston.

Bobbi Kristina Brown has been moved to an undisclosed location since being released last month from Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Brown’s attorney, Christopher Brown, declined to comment.

Julio Iglesias to receive honorary degree from Berklee

BOSTON (AP)—Julio Iglesias and three other prominent music industry figures will receive honorary degrees from Boston’s Berklee College of Music at its commencement next month.

Sony Music Entertainment CEO Doug Morris, drummer Harvey Mason and Grammy Award-winning singer-song-

writer and producer Dee Dee Bridgewater will also receive honorary doctorates at the May 9 ceremony.

Berklee says Iglesias and the others are being recognized for their achievements and influences in music and for their enduring contributions to American and international culture.

Past recipients include Duke Ellington, Aretha Franklin, Dizzy Gillespie, Quincy Jones, Jimmy Page, Smokey Robinson, Steven Tyler, Loretta Lynn, David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Carole King, Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss, George Clinton and Placido Domingo.

Readers have strong views on claiming seats in church

DEAR ABBY: May I comment on your response to “Got Here First in Pennsylvania” (Jan. 7), who asked whether someone sitting at the end of a church pew should move if someone comes and says it’s his or her “favorite seat”?

There are many reasons why people remain sitting at the end of a pew: an allergy to perfumes can be overwhelming if you’re sitting in the middle of a row; claustrophobia; weak bladder; physical limitations; the need for more leg room; and the need to use the armrest to stand up and sit down.

The early bird DOES get the worm and shouldn’t be expected to give it to latecomers. Likewise, possession is nine-tenths of the law.

If people have a favorite seat, they should arrive early to ensure they’ll get it. That’s what we do. And when someone wants to sit in the same pew, we smile, step aside and let the person in while retaining our end seats.

OVERLAND PARK, KAN., ATTENDEE

DEAR ATTENDEE: Thank you for making your strongly stated case. When I told “Got Here” to be an angel and shove over, readers were quick to offer me “chapter and verse”:

DEAR ABBY: I’m 6 feet 2 inches, weigh 350 pounds and have size 15 feet. I am not the guy you would want to have to crawl

over, or have crawl over you in church.

When sitting at the end of the pew, I can easily step into the aisle to let people in and out. I also take a medication that causes me to use the restroom often and on short notice. Again, I can easily move about without worrying about trampling some little old lady.

I arrive early and take my end seat not to be rude, but to make things as convenient as possible for others.

DOUG B. IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR ABBY: As a pastor, I believe good behavior should come first and foremost from church members who respect others and don’t insist on their own way. Nobody “owns” a seat in the sanctuary. As creatures of habit, we tend to sit where we usually sit. If someone else happens to be there, we simply find somewhere else.

If “Got Here” was just starting to visit that church, I’d suggest he/she find a more charitable and hospitable congregation and leave those territorial folks behind.

JEANNE IN AUSTIN

DEAR ABBY: How can you say that one person, in the house of God, is more right than another in this situation? Is the shove not committing the sin of coveting that seat?

MISSOULA, MONT., READER

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: If you are first to arrive at an empty pew, take a place in the middle. Thus later arrivals won’t have to climb over you. It’s common courtesy!

PAT IN BLOOMFIELD, MO.

DEAR ABBY: Having worked in a fire department for many years, I always sit at the end of the pew. That way I won’t have to knock over any fellow parishioners when my pager goes off!

LOUIE IN SOMERSET, OHIO

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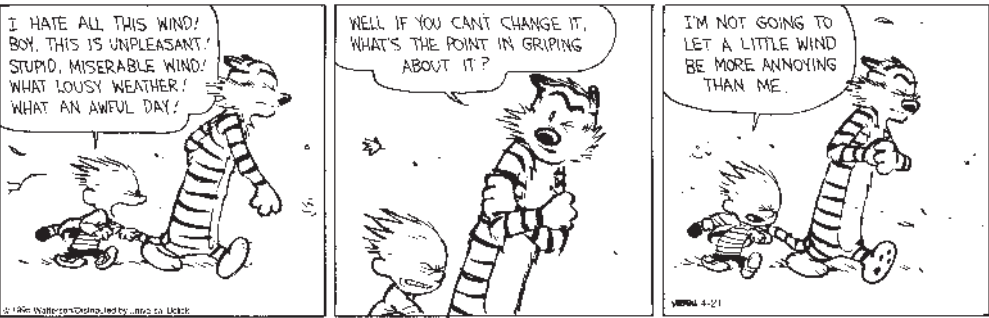
Pastimes

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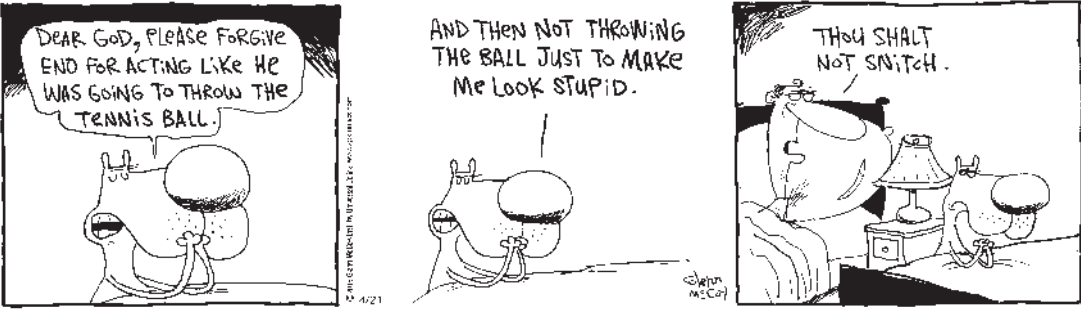
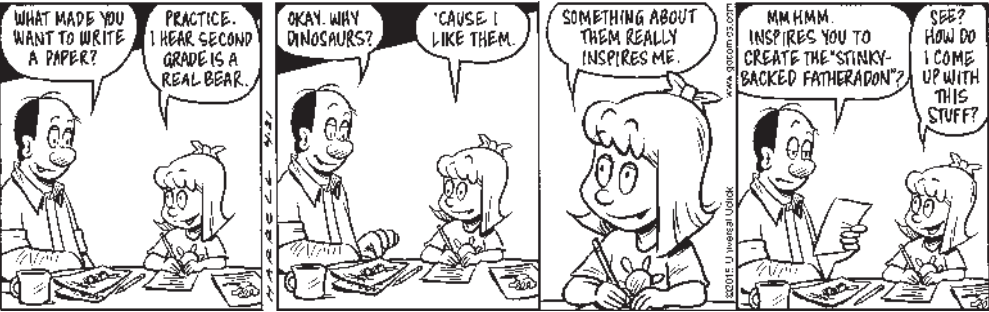


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Put together

5 Sleeve filler

8 Bloke

12 God-mother, often

13 Halloween shout

14 Judicial raiment

15 Medieval weapon

17 Terminator partner

18 Corrode

19 Household member

20 Biblical poem

21 Weep

22 Petrol

23 Bride's stuff

26 Showy display

30 Toledo's state

31 Hula hoop, e.g.

32 Desktop image

33 Lab creation?

35 AKC category

36 Scatter seed

37 Coloring

38 Sad look

41 Gear tooth

42 That girl

45 Stromboli spillage

46 Saw type

48 List-end abbr.

49 Weeding tool

50 Cougar

51 "Wunnerful" band-leader

52 Unfriendly

53 Pumps up the volume

3 Entangle-ment

4 UFO

5 Westminster, e.g.

6 Source

7 Tend the lawn

8 Rapid, heated exchange of words

9 George-town athlete

10 First victim

11 Hair salon request

16 Agile

20 Zero-star review

21 Pedestrians' place

22 Peregrinate

23 Comic

24 Discoverer's cry

25 Triumph

26 Distant

27 Expert

28 Shad product

29 Remnant

31 Hardly any

34 Heavy weight

35 Vexes

37 Non-sense

38 Took off

39 Assess

40 Ellipse

41 Gator's cousin

42 Pond gunk

43 Igor's deformity

44 Greek vowels

46 Windy City, for short

47 Mas-seur's work-place

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Romo, 35; Rob Riggle, 45; Andie MacDowell, 57; Iggy Pop, 68.

Happy Birthday: You'll have a huge impact on others. You can influence and persuade people to pitch in and help your cause. Your persistence and desire to make a difference will lead to greater opportunities for personal and professional partnerships. Don't hesitate to move forward because of emotional reasons that will prove to be inconsequential. Focus on making gains. Your numbers are 6, 13, 21, 25, 32, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let your charm help you define what you intend to do and how you expect to reach your goals, and you will impress someone with connections. Simple but definite personal changes will enhance your appearance and improve important relationships. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Experience will be your ticket to success. Listen, learn and implement what you pick up into your everyday routine, and you will up your chance to get ahead. Limit your expenses at home. Cut corners and avoid unnecessary purchases. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be secretive about the changes you want to make. Don't give anyone the benefit of the doubt. Revealing the way you feel about someone or something will leave you in a precarious position. Protect against being taken advantage of. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will face restrictions if you neglect to take care of your responsibilities. Don't give

in to demands that will keep you from completing your tasks. Ask for help rather than offering to do things for others. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Trying to make a difference will bring you great satisfaction along with interesting new connections. Getting involved and using your skills to set new standards will lead to an opportunity to step into the spotlight and present what you have to offer. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep business and pleasure separate. Emotional matters will lead to setbacks, depression or a misunderstanding that will be difficult to rectify. Focus on what you can do and put your best foot forward. Don't dwell on regrets or the past. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put travel, pleasure and romance at the top of your list. Changing the way you approach projects, your philosophy and your relationships with others will put an interesting slant on the responses you get. Express your desires. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider an investment opportunity, but do your own research instead of buying in to the hype. Disagreements will be a waste of time. Discuss plans and be willing to compromise or go it alone. Make love, not war, and you'll get your way. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your emotions will lead to all sorts of interesting encounters. A last-minute change will spin into an adventure you don't want to miss. An investment will lead to an op-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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portunity that can help you stabilize your current standard of living. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will experience a change of heart regarding your professional direction due to an unsettling occurrence. Take some time to observe and re-evaluate your next move. It's best not to be impulsive if you want to avoid a financial setback. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Fix up your home or make plans that will help you form closer relationships. Don't argue a moot point when you should be adapting and making changes that are in the best interest of everyone you care about. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't spare detail. Honesty and integrity will be essential if you want to avoid being blamed for offering false information. Put your effort into your work as well as connecting with people who share your interests and skills. **

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, imaginative and outgoing. You are dynamic and progressive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1			8		2			4
		5				9		
	3			4			7	
2			7		3			9
		8				2		
9			5		6			3
	2			5			3	
		9				1		
8			6		1			2

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	8	6	4	3	1	7	5
4	5	7	1	2	8	3	6	9
6	1	3	7	5	9	2	4	8
1	8	5	4	6	2	9	3	7
7	6	2	9	3	1	8	5	4
3	4	9	5	8	7	6	2	1
8	7	6	2	9	5	4	1	3
9	2	1	3	7	4	5	8	6
5	3	4	8	1	6	7	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/21

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

U.S. ROUTE 491 Solution: 5 letters

T	Y	C	N	I	A	R	R	E	T	R	E	S	E	D
N	V	R	I	N	T	E	R	S	T	A	T	E	O	R
E	A	I	T	R	S	O	N	A	C	L	O	V	V	I
M	M	V	S	N	O	S	D	N	E	G	E	L	E	V
E	O	E	A	I	U	T	I	G	I	G	S	I	R	E
V	N	U	S	J	T	O	S	H	N	N	H	M	L	R
A	O	A	N	A	O	O	C	I	A	A	I	I	A	S
P	I	B	L	T	V	T	R	E	H	C	P	T	P	T
O	T	A	T	S	A	E	B	S	A	I	R	S	I	S
T	A	J	S	H	B	I	R	N	T	R	O	I	N	I
S	V	O	O	M	T	C	N	D	U	E	C	W	T	R
T	E	T	U	U	R	U	S	E	M	E	M	K	T	O
S	L	N	R	S	D	A	O	R	L	A	B	I	R	T
E	E	N	O	R	T	H	F	S	S	T	E	E	P	O
R	S	N	O	I	S	N	E	T	X	E	G	R	E	M

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Abajo, American, Beans, Beast, Country, Curse, Desert, Drivers, Elevation, Extension, Farms, Historic, Interstate, Lane, Legends, Limit, Merge, Mesa Verde, Motorists, Mountains, Navajo, North, Overlap, Pavement, Pinto, Renumbering, Rest Stop, Road, Ship Rock, South, Steep, Terrain, Tohatchi, Tribal, Turns, Twist, Utah, Visitors, Volcano

Yesterday's Answer: Lungs

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CP3, Griffin lead Clippers past Spurs 107-92 in opener



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Paul scored 32 points, Blake Griffin added 26 points and 12 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers surged in the second half for a 107-92 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday night in their first-round playoff series opener.

Jamal Crawford added 17 points for the Clippers, who met the defending NBA champions' challenge in a difficult postseason-opening matchup for two powers. Griffin threw down his usual array of roof-raising dunks, while Paul quarterbacked Los Angeles to an 18-point lead in the third quarter.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points for the Spurs, who had won the opening game in their previous 11 playoff series. Tim Duncan had 11 points and 11 rebounds, but the Spurs couldn't rally from their hefty second-half deficit.

Game 2 is Wednesday night.

Tony Parker rolled his ankle early on and managed just 10 points on 4-of-11 shooting for the Spurs, who slipped to the sixth seed in the Western Conference in their season finale. That loss at New Orleans forced them to open their chase of their sixth NBA title against the hungry Clippers, who have never reached a conference final.

Both teams headed into the postseason with enormous momentum: Los Angeles won 14 of its final 15 games to finish with 56 victories and the NBA's third-best record, while San Antonio won 14 of 16 and 11 straight before the season finale.

San Antonio began intentionally fouling DeAndre Jordan at midcourt with 1:34 left in the first half, resuming the much-loathed strategy of forcing a 39-percent free-throw shooter to the line. In February, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich sent Jordan to the line 28 times in a loss at Staples Center.

Jordan went 4 for 8 in his four trips to close the first half, leaving the Clippers up 49-43.

Paul and Griffin went to work in the third quarter while the Clippers made a 24-10 run in the period, taking an 18-point lead in their usual high-flying style. Griffin was particularly vicious, depositing two dunks right in the face of Spurs backup big man Aron Baynes.

San Antonio briefly trimmed the lead to nine points midway through the fourth quarter, but Paul and Griffin comfortably kept the Clippers ahead, pushing the lead to 20 points on Paul's jumper with 2:39 to play.

The Clippers are the only playoff team among Staples Center's three tenants, and the Kings' ice has been melted and the Lakers' championship banners covered up for their club-record fourth straight playoff appearance. A sellout crowd in red T-shirts batted illuminated beach balls around the arena be-



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin ducks against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Los Angeles, Sunday, April 19, 2015.

fore the Clippers jumped to an early 11-point lead.

The Clippers anticipate considerably less postseason turmoil than they faced last season, when team owner Donald Sterling was banned from the NBA for life during the

club's first-round series against Golden State after his racist remarks were revealed. The Clippers beat the Warriors in seven games after dumping their warmup shirts at center court in Oakland in a gesture of solidarity against Sterling.

Cavaliers 113, Celtics 100

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 30 points in his playoff debut and LeBron James added 20 in his first postseason game with Cleveland in five years as the Cavaliers opened a run to-

ward an NBA title with a victory over the Boston Celtics.

Irving made five 3-pointers and Kevin Love, another postseason rookie, had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

It was Cleveland's first home playoff game since May 11,

For Pelicans and Bucks, there were lessons in Game 1 losses

New Orleans and Milwaukee were facing long odds before the postseason even began, and now the task of advancing in the NBA playoffs seems considerably more daunting.

That's not to say there's no hope.

The Pelicans and Bucks will try to even their respective first-round series on Monday night, with eighth-seeded New Orleans visiting top-seeded Golden State in Game 2 of a Western Conference matchup and sixth-seeded Milwaukee going into Chicago for Game 2 of an East series against the third-seeded Bulls.

And given the way the openers finished in both of those series, there seems to have been some lessons that the underdogs can glean from their Game 1 defeats.

"The next game after the first one is always a lot more intense," Chicago forward Taj Gibson said.

Once the Pelicans started going to Anthony Davis on just about every possession—10 of his 23 field-goal attempts came in the final 10:30—what looked like a certain blowout win for the Warriors got interesting in a hurry.

When the Bucks got into a defensive rhythm, plenty of things that were working for Chicago stopped abruptly. Chi-

cago was 16 for 22 from 2-point range in the first half (scoring 60 points in all), then made just 8 of 29 shots inside the arc after halftime (scoring only 43 points in the final two quarters).

So now, the Pelicans and Bucks have a better idea of what will work. Turning those ideas into wins, that's a much different story.

Four series opened Sunday. Cleveland beat Boston 113-100, Atlanta topped Brooklyn 99-92, Memphis routed Portland 100-86, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat San Antonio 107-92.

Here's a look at the two NBA playoff games Monday (all times EDT):

■■■ Bucks at Bulls, Chicago leads 1-0, Game 2, 8 p.m., TNT

Derrick Rose will be in a Game 2 for the first time since the 2011 Eastern Conference finals, and the former MVP looked great in his 23-point, seven-assist playoff opener.

But that was hardly the only reason why the Bulls have the series lead.

Chicago converted 19 turnovers into 25 points, outscored Milwaukee 36-12 from 3-point range and controlled the rebounding battle. And Rose and Jimmy Butler, for just the third time all season (in part because they just haven't shared the

court together much), both had at least 23 in the same game.

Butler led the Bulls with 25 in the opener.

"The more they play together, the better it will be," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said Sunday. "Jimmy's become a primary scorer as well, so he also has a responsibility to make the right play."

The Bucks weren't pleased with their defense, predictably. They gave up 60 first-half points for just the sixth time in 83 games this season.

"A lot of things for us defensively, which we hang our hat on, we didn't do," Bucks coach Jason Kidd said. "That was out of character for us."

INJURY REPORT: Gibson said the knee he tweaked in Game 1 was fine. The Bulls are listing guard Kirk Hinrich (sore left knee) as questionable.

■■■ Pelicans at Warriors, Golden State leads 1-0, 10:30 p.m., TNT

Golden State set a tone from the outset of Game 1, getting 11 shots for likely MVP Stephen Curry in the opening quarter.

Take note, New Orleans. If the Pelicans are going to pull off this upset, it doesn't take a doctorate in coaching philosophy to realize that Davis needs the ball often.

"We know they're going to

prepare for it in Game 2," Davis said. "So we've got to try to figure out how to still try to get the ball and be effective."

Quincy Pondexter had six assists for New Orleans in the fourth quarter of Game 1, to go along with his 20-point game. And with Tyreke Evans' status uncertain because of a left knee bruise, the Pelicans figure to need more from Eric Gordon—who missed six of his seven tries from 2-point range.

"Our corporate equity was depleted a bit yesterday," Pelicans coach Monty Williams said Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Warriors keep rolling. The NBA's best team in the regular season looked anything but overwhelmed in Game 1.

Golden State is 40-2 at home this season. That currently ranks fourth-best in NBA history, and the three teams ahead of the Warriors right now on that list—the 1985-86 Celtics, 1995-96 Bulls and 1970-71 Bucks—all won a championship.

"We know it's going to be a long journey," Curry said. We're doing a lot of great things this season, but the expectation we had in October is the same we had right now."

INJURY REPORT: Evans (bone bruise, left knee) is questionable for the Pelicans. Golden State F David Lee (back) is out.

2010, when the Celtics won Game 5 and James left the floor to some boos from Cavaliers fans. He departed for Miami two months later, but he's home now, all is forgiven and Cleveland is aiming to end a championship drought dating to 1964.

Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points to lead the seventh-seeded Celtics. They will try to even the best-of-7 series in Game 2 on Tuesday night.

The Cavs built a 20-point lead in the third quarter, let the Celtics get as close as six and then finished the quarter with a 9-0 run—capped by a 3-pointer by James Jones—to take a 15-point lead. Boston climbed within 10, but Love made a crucial 3-pointer with 3:32 left to slow Boston.

Hawks 99, Nets 92

In Atlanta, Kyle Korver scored 21 points, including five 3-pointers, as the top-seeded Atlanta Hawks held off the Brooklyn Nets 99-92 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Hawks led nearly the entire game and pushed the margin as high as 16 points, but the Nets kept coming back. Finally, Jeff Teague dropped in a floater coming off the left wing, giving Atlanta a 95-89 lead. Joe Johnson missed a 3-pointer from the corner for Brooklyn, and Teague made a pair of free throws with just under a minute remaining to essentially seal it.

Teague and DeMarre Carroll scored 17 points apiece.

Eighth-seeded Brooklyn finished 22 games behind the Hawks and slipped into the playoffs on the final day. But, with Johnson and Brook Lopez each scoring 17 points, they didn't look overmatched by a team that won the season series 4-0 and earned a No. 1 seed for the first time since 1994.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Atlanta.

Grizzlies 100, Trail Blazers 86

In Memphis, Tennessee, reserve Beno Udrih scored 20 points and Memphis never trailed in routing Portland in Game 1 of the Western Conference first-round series.

Zach Randolph had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Marc Gasol added 15 points and 11 rebounds. Mike Conley finished with 16 points and didn't play the fourth quarter. Jeff Green had 11.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 32 points while taking more shots than anyone had ever taken against Memphis in the postseason, going 13 of 34. Damian Lillard added 14 points, shooting 5 of 21 overall and 0 of 6 beyond the arc. Nicolas Batum had 15 points. The Trail Blazers have lost five straight overall.

The Grizzlies swept Portland during the regular season and have won 10 of the last 11, including the first playoff game between the teams.

Game 2 is Wednesday night.

Furyk tops Kisner in playoff to win RBC Heritage



HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Jim Furyk had gone 100 starts without winning, a stretch that gnawed at his psyche and challenged his confidence.

That all disappeared in uncharacteristic fashion Sunday when he won his first PGA Tour title in five years with birdies on both playoff holes to outlast Kevin Kisner at the RBC Heritage. When the winning putt fell on the par-3 17th, the typically reserved Furyk dropped his putter and punched the air.

"I think getting excited on 17 there was a lot of pent-up frustrations," he said.

Furyk won for the second time at RBC Heritage, the other coming in 2010 in what turned out to be the best year of his career. He won two other events, including the Tour Championship, and captured the \$10 million FedEx Cup.

Furyk won the 2003 U.S. Open and entered this tournament ranked 10th in the world, but he has struggled to close out events. He was 0-of-9 when leading tournaments after three rounds since that Tour Championship victory. He is 44 and always believed he'd win again.

"But I was starting to feel like this game is beating me up, and the losing hurts a lot more than winning feels good," he said. "I

think I just forget how good" it feels to win.

With that came a \$1.062 million payday. For Kisner, it was his best finish on the PGA Tour.

Furyk led by a stroke when Kisner birdied the 72nd hole to force the playoff, the fourth in the last six tournaments at Harbour Town Golf Links. On the first extra hole, Kisner rolled in a second straight birdie putt on the 18th. But Furyk answered with a birdie to keep the playoff going. After Kisner missed his birdie try on No. 17, Furyk sank a 12-foot putt for his 17th career PGA Tour victory.

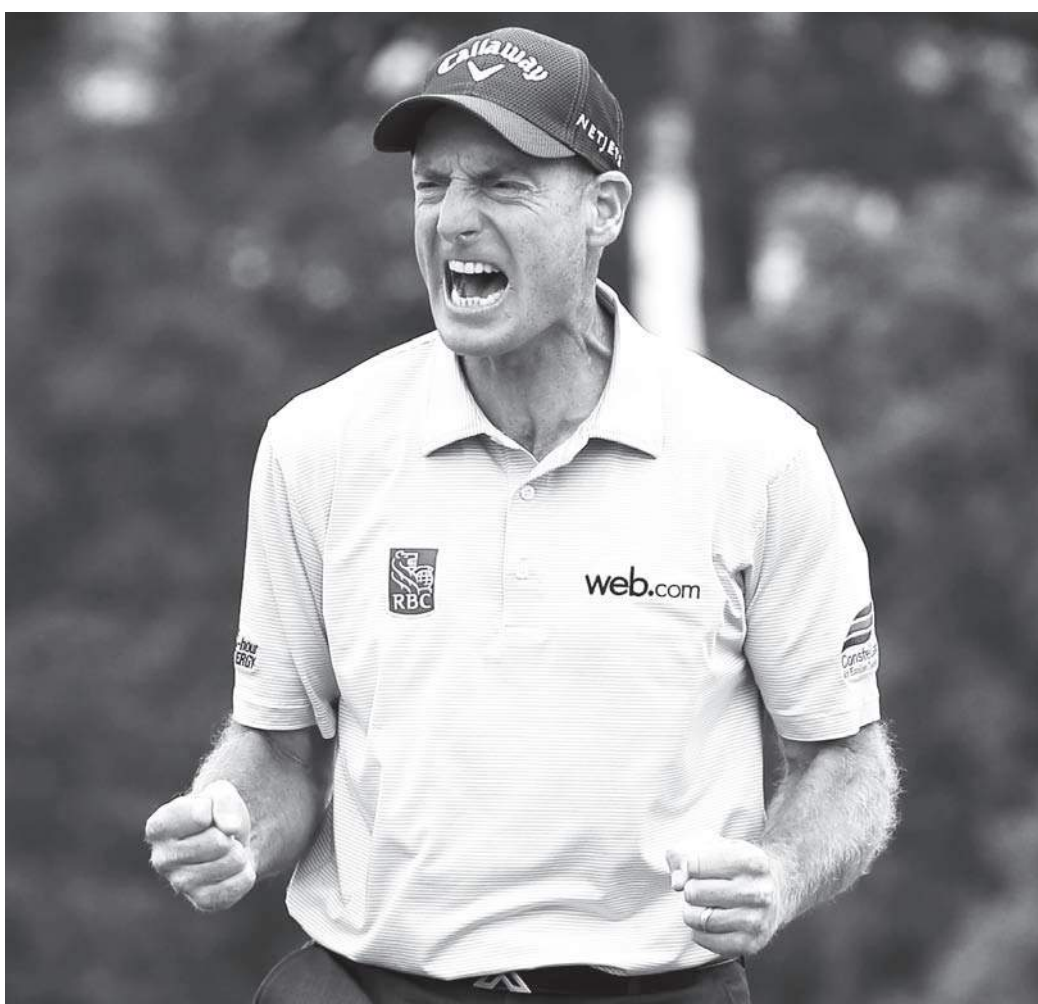
Furyk shot a 63 and Kisner a 64, leaving them both at 18-under 266. Third-round leader Troy Merritt was at 16 under after a 69. Defending champion Matt Kuchar (68) was at 14 under and Masters winner Jordan Spieth (70) was eight shots back.

It was an odd tournament for Furyk.

He looked as if he'd get left behind early, making 18 pars in the first round to fall five shots back. Furyk found his game Friday with eight birdies on the way to a 64. He had a 68 Saturday, yet knew he needed to fire himself as he did Friday to have a chance.

Boy, did he ever.

Furyk had six birdies on his first nine holes, including a 48-footer on the par-4 eighth that moved him in front. A bogey on the 11th dropped Furyk



AP
Jim Furyk reacts after his winning putt on the 17th hole against Kevin Kisner during the playoff of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Sunday, April 19, 2015.

into a four-way tie for first, but he responded with birdies on three of the next four holes and seemed set for an easy ride.

When his long putt on No. 8 rolled in, Furyk said he began to think "this may be the

day." Kisner, though, chased him down on the back nine. He birdied the 14th and 15th to pull within a stroke and stuck his approach on the signature lighthouse hole at No. 18 within 7 feet for a tying birdie.

Kisner kissed his wife, Brittany, and 10-month old daughter Kathleen on the way to the scoring trailer to prepare for more golf.

Furyk is used to such grinding at Harbour Town. When he

won in 2010, Brian Davis tied him on the final hole to force a playoff—won by Furyk when Davis struck a loose impediment on his swing and called a penalty on himself.

Kisner expected Furyk, who made 11 birdies in 20 holes, to tie him after his putt on the first playoff hole.

"You don't expect a guy of Jim's caliber to miss a 6-footer straight up the hill," Kisner said.

Merritt fell to third after a third 69. His other score was a course-record tying 61 in the second round Friday. Merritt couldn't keep up with Furyk's charge and lost his chance after hitting out of bounds on No. 12 and taking double bogey. Merritt made up for it a few holes later with an eagle-2 on No. 16.

Spieth closed an amazing five-tournament stretch. He won the Valspar Championship a month ago and followed that with seconds at the Texas and Houston opens before matching Tigers Woods' record of 18 under at Augusta National. For Spieth, 19 of his past 20 rounds have been under par.

Spieth had a whirlwind media tour in New York on Monday and Tuesday before arriving at Hilton Head. Now the 21-year-old Texan wants to get back to Dallas in time to attend the Academy of Country Music Awards. He'll return to golf in two weeks at the World Golf Championship Match Play event.

Harvey, banged-up Mets hold off Marlins 7-6 for 8th straight



NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Harvey won

his third straight start to begin his comeback season as the New York Mets, despite losing two important players to injuries, held off the Miami Marlins 7-6 Sunday for their eighth consecutive victory.

Ruben Tejada had a three-run double and catcher Travis d'Arnaud singled twice in a seven-run fourth inning. But it was a costly win for the Mets, who lost d'Arnaud to a broken right hand and reliever Jerry Blevins to a fractured forearm.

After the Marlins trimmed a six-run deficit, Jeurys Familia retired Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton on grounders with a runner at second for his sixth save.

Already missing captain David Wright (hamstring) and right-hander Zack Wheeler (elbow surgery), the Mets matched the best start in franchise history at 10-3 and won their first seven home games for the first time.

Harvey (3-0) yielded four runs and eight hits in six-plus innings to beat Tom Koehler (1-2).

Royals 4, Athletics 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, the Royals overcame five ejections and won with Kendrys Morales' tiebreaking, two-run double off Eric O'Flaherty (0-1) in a three-

run eighth inning.

Royals manager Ned Yost and pitching coach Dave Eiland were ejected in the first inning after Lorenzo Cain was hit by a Scott Kazmir pitch.

Kansas City reliever Kelvin Herrera was tossed in the eighth after throwing behind Brett Lawrie. Bench coach Don Wakamatsu, who was acting as manager after Yost's ejection, also ejected along with injured Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar.

Royals right-hander Yordano Ventura was ejected Saturday when he hit Lawrie with a pitch after Josh Reddick's homer. Lawrie's hard slide into Escobar injured the left knee of the Kansas City shortstop on Friday and caused benches to clear. Escobar called it a "dirty slide" and did not play Saturday.

Tigers 9, White Sox 1

In Detroit, Yoanis Cespedes hit his first major league grand slam and had a two-run homer as Detroit improved to 10-2, the best start in the major leagues.

Shane Greene (3-0) allowed his first earned run of the season when an RBI triple by Jose Abreu skipped past right fielder J.D. Martinez. Greene gave up five hits and four walks in seven innings.

Yankees 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chase

Headley and Mark Teixeira drove in two runs each for New York, which completed a three-game sweep.

Michael Pineda (2-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings to defeat Matt Andriese (0-1). After Ryan Brett doubled leading off the ninth for his first big league hitter, Andrew Miller struck out three straight batters for his fourth save.

Braves 5, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Jonny Gomes hit a three-run double in the first inning off rookie Daniel Norris (1-1) and added a sacrifice fly as the Braves took two of three games from Toronto.

Pirates 5, Brewers 2

In Pittsburgh, Gerrit Cole (2-0) improved to 9-1 in his last 10 decisions at PNC Park, and has won six straight decisions overall. He gave up two runs and struck out six in six innings.

Pedro Alvarez homered for the Pirates, and Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his second save.

Nationals 4, Phillies 1

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg (1-1) won for the first time in three starts this season, allowing one run in 7 1-3 innings and cutting his ERA from 6.75 to 4.50.

Drew Storen worked the ninth for his fourth save. Wash-

ington took three of four from Philadelphia, which has lost seven of eight.

Orioles 8, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Adam Jones went 4 for 5 with a three-run double and two-run homer to match his career high with five RBIs.

Ryan Flaherty added a solo homer and Jimmy Paredes three singles for the Orioles, who won for the second straight day after losing the series opener.

Hanley Ramirez hit a three-run homer, and Miguel Gonzalez (2-1) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings. Rick Porcello (1-2) gave up eight runs and 12 hits in five innings.

Astros 4, Angels 3

In Houston, Scott Feldman (1-2) allowed two runs and six hit in six innings, one start after Oakland got to him for eight runs in five innings.

Luke Gregerson pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Garrett Richards (0-1), making his first start since knee surgery last August, gave up four runs—three earned—five hits and four walks in five innings.

Twins 7, Indians 2

In Minneapolis, Torii Hunter hit his first home run for Minnesota since 2007, a three-run drive in the sixth off former Minnesota pitcher Anthony Swarzak.

Trevor May (1-1) allowed one run and four hits in six innings. With Ervin Santana serving a drug suspension, May is bidding to remain in the rotation when Nolasco returns from elbow inflammation.

Padres 5, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Jon Lester (0-2) gave up three runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings as San Diego downed Chicago.

Lester has a 6.89 ERA in his first three starts since signing a \$155 million, six-year contract. He also alertly tossed his glove—with the ball stuck in the webbing—to first baseman Anthony Rizzo for an out after fielding Clint Barnes' comebacker in the second.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer off Tim Hudson (0-2) helping send the World Series champions to their ninth loss in 10 games.

Chris Owings added a two-run single and A.J. Pollock had three hits, scored two runs and made a run-saving diving catch for the Diamondbacks.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 0

In Los Angeles, Howie Kendrick, Scott Van Slyke and rookie Joc Pederson hit sixth-inning home runs off rookie Scott Oberg, and

Los Angeles stretched its winning streak to seven.

Brandon McCarthy (2-0) allowed three hits in six innings, struck out six and walked two to defeat the Rockies for the first time in five career starts.

Mariners 11, Rangers 10

In Seattle, Austin Jackson singled in the tying run in the ninth inning and Nelson Cruz followed with a two-out single off Neftali Felix (0-1) for his fifth RBI of the game as Seattle overcame deficits of 7-2 and 10-5.

Cruz homered twice in the first three innings, raising his major league-leading total to eight, and Jackson hit the 11th leadoff homer of his career.

Cardinals 2, Reds 1

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright outpitched Mike Leake, and Kolten Wong had a tiebreaking sacrifice in the eighth inning to help St. Louis sweep Cincinnati and win its fifth straight.

Matt Carpenter hit his fifth career leadoff homer and singled for his eighth multi-hit effort this season. Jordan Walden worked around a leadoff hit by Brennan Boesch in the ninth to earn his first save and end the game in 2 hours, 2 minutes. Wainwright (2-1) gave up one run and seven hits with four strikeouts and two walks, improving to 3-0 against the Reds the last two seasons.

Basa still leads scoring race in business caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Public School System gunner Preston Basa is still ahead in the battle among scoring leaders in the 2015 Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League.

In eight games in the round-robin regular season, Basa has averaged 26.75 points as he compiled 214 points in PSS' five wins and three losses. The Marianas High School teacher leads Docomo Pacific's Tony Diaz and Saipan Ice & Water's Patrick Rotap. Diaz also earned a 20-plus point average with his 22.75 in eight games (182 points), while Rotap is not far behind with his 22.16 points per game average in six games (133 points).

Basa also leads the league in 3-point

baskets made, as he has knocked in 47 triples for an average of 5.86 per match. Rotap barged into the Top 3 as he is in second place with his 15 treys in six games and 2.50 average. Pacific Islands Club's Jack Aranda was bumped off from the second spot, but stayed in contention with his 18 triples in eight games and 2.25 average.

In the assists department, there is a new leader in Fiesta Resort & Spa's Elmer Esdrelon. The Fiesta captain's 3.85 average off 27 feeds in seven games edged the 3.75 of erstwhile leader Jerry Diaz (30 assist in eight games) of PSS. IT&E's Nate Mateo rounded out the Top 3 as he dislodged Joeten's Syl Teregeyo after posting an average of 3.50 off his 28 assists in eight matches.

Meanwhile, Saipan Ice players are ahead in three other categories.

In the steals department, Joel Fernandez's 4.50 average (27 in six



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Preston Basa, third from left, poses for a photo with his Public School System teammates and PSS chair Herman Guerrero, fourth from right, before their game in the business caging, leads the league in scoring and 3-pointers made.

games) puts him in first place against IT&E's Jason Palacios (4.37 average off 35 steals in eight games) and Esdrelon (3.42 off 24 steals in seven games).

Fernandez's teammate, Ben Olopai has averaged 2.16 blocks to lead three others. He has collected 13 blocks in

six games to place ahead of teammate John Santy (1.83 average off 11 blocks in six games), IT&E's Rick Sanchez and PSS' Mel Manibusan, who posted similar 1.00 average (off eight blocks in eight games).

The lanky Santy used his height ad-

vantage to lord it over in the rebound department with his 12.16 average off 73 rebounds in six games. Joeten's Alex Lauron has the most rebounds so far with 79 in eight games, but is only ranked second with his 9.87 average, while Olopai made it to the Top 3, averaging 9.66 caroms per game off his 58 boards on six matches.

The league is in the final stages of the regular season with PIC still unbeaten (8-0) and a win away from sweeping the elimination. PIC notched its eighth victory after prevailing against Fiesta, 97-92, in the battle of unbeaten teams last Thursday. Fiesta dropped to a 5-1 record, but is still in second place, followed by Mobil (5-2), PSS (5-3), Joeten (4-3), IT&E (4-4), Saipan Ice (2-4), Saipan Stevedore (2-6), Docomo (1-6), and MARPAC (0-9). Mobil moved up to third after slipping past PSS last week, 90-86.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Several bikers pose for a photo while waiting for the start of the Saipan Cyclers MTB & Road Bike Race 6 last Sunday at Banzai Cliff.

40 complete SCA MTB and road bike race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Korean pro Kaon Cho led the 40 finishers in last Sunday's Saipan Cyclers MTB & Road Race 6.

Cho, who competed in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon last month and is preparing for this Saturday's Saipan Marathon, topped the road course after timing in at 1:22:42. He did three laps of the course that started and ended at Banzai Cliff with a turnaround in Mobil Tanapag, crossing the finish line more than six minutes ahead of Bob Ferrer (1:28:59). Youth biker Jerome Diyco completed the Top 3 after submitting 1:29:08.

In the 45-and-under division, Nap Dizon was the first finisher after clocking in at 1:29:38. Wynn Brillo (1:29:41) and Fred Remilloza (1:29:49) joined him in the Top 3.

In the 46-and-above category, there was a down-to-the-wire finish between Willy Barbo and Cesar Fortaleza with the former nosing out the latter after

recording 1:32:26 or just one second ahead of the runner-up's time. Tinian's Allen Perez rounded out the podium finish with the field's third best time of 1:39:27, while young athlete Angel Marie Tan was the lone female entry in the road bike division and completed the two laps required in 1:10:18.

Meanwhile, Ken Pierson ruled the men's open MTB long course in Sunday's race after registering 1:14:10. The MTB long course had Pierson and company pedaling from Banzai Cliff and going through Kimikaze, Autobahn, Bird Island Lookout, Kalabera Road, the road at the back of Marianas Country Club and back to Bird Island before heading to Santa Clause lane, the dumping station in Marpi, and then to the start/finish line.

Dencio Bautista placed second behind Pierson after posting 1:18:30, while Romy Ampit came in at third with his 1:25:07. In the men's 46-and-above division, Ferry Esquivel logged 1:27:18 to beat Russ Quinn and Floro Derexes, who tallied 1:31:19 and 1:32:18, respectively, while Kanae Quinn was the lone entry in the women's division and clocked in at 1:31:18.

outclassing Michael Ren last Sunday, 6-3, 7-5. Lizama's two other victories in the weekend competition were against Steve Lee, 6-1, 6-0, and Coconut Classic champion Colin Ramsey, 6-2 6-4.

Ren took the second place as he prevailed over Steve Lee via walkover and against Ramsey, 6-4, 6-1.

Meanwhile, Eu Bin Park, Mimi Sakano, and Tania Tan joined Carol Lee and Lizama in the singles champions circle after topping their respective divisions.

Tan nailed the girls U16 singles tiora after notching two victories in the round-robin contest. She was first paired

In the MTB short course, which brought riders from Banzai Cliff to the dumping site, Santa Clause Lane, Bird Island Lookout, Kalabera Road, the back road at MCC and back to Bird Island Lookout, Santa Clause Lane and dumping site en route to the start/finish line, Jomer Enriques emerged as the top finisher after clocking in at 1:15:16. Roland Libayan (1:17:02) and Ariel Lansangan (1:17:52) completed the Top 3, while Margaret Rose took the top finish in the women's field after checking in at 1:25:06.

In the MTB beginners course (one lap, from Banzai Cliff to Mobil Tanapag and back), Angel Esquivel (43:06), Rodney Catalla (46:03), and the 11-year-old Jin Ju Thompson (46:56) were the Top 3 finishers.

In related news, Saipan Cyclers Association, which organized the weekend race, would like to thank the following for supporting yesterday's event: Bridge Capital, MARPAC, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, T Galleria, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, Brabu Pharmacy, The Water Company, Pacific Trading, Co., and Taro Sue.

against Ami Tsukagoshi and needed only two sets to win, 6-2, 6-0. The eventual champion picked up where she left off last Sunday and swept long-time doubles partner Julia Ishikawa, 6-1, 6-1. Ishikawa finished second as he also downed Tsukagoshi, 6-4, 6-1.

In the girls U14, Mimi Sakano took the short route to beating Asia Raulerson, 6-2, 6-1, while Park also had an easier time against Anthony Gregoire, 6-1.

Besides the singles events, NMITA's season-ending local tournament also featured doubles contests and results in various age groups will be reported later this week.

CAMACHO

From Page 28

The Enforcers' two runs were both earned with Ethan Babauta and J.J. Chong reaching home plate on a Kier Agda two-RBI single with one out—Franklin Lizama grounding out to second—at the bottom of the seventh.

Babauta singled and Camacho walked Chong to put runners at first and second. Greg Sablan was hit by pitch to load the bases. Camacho fanned Ton Muna then gave up that two-RBI single to Agda.

The Red Sox preserved the win after Sablan was tagged out going to third in the same play.

Camacho also had 11 strikeouts and three walks. He went 3-for-3, all singles, with one run. Austin Roberto and Roke Tenorio both batted 2-for-4 with the former having a double and one run, while the latter also doubled in the top of the fourth.

In the other Senior League game, the Braves won by forfeit against the Fielders.

JUNIOR Fielders 8, Falcons 0

Tyrese Camacho pitched five shut-out innings while Greg Sablan went 2-for-2 with a double and one run, and the Fielders used a four-run first inning in beating the Falcons.

Camacho struck out eight and walked five while surrendering three hits—singles to Spencer Dickinson

in the second, Noel Cabrera in the third, and Ace Evangelista in the fifth.

Don Ada tossed two innings in relief to complete the shutout, giving up a double to Arby Yaguel, while forcing the next five batters he faced to fly outs and grounders. He forced Cabrera to a game-ending infield fly.

MAJORS Comets 15, Little Padres 3

Reid Teregeyo belted a three-run homer in the third to keep the Comets' hopes of clinching the pennant alive. The Comets and the Braves are tied with similar 10-1 records.

Teregeyo also had a double in a 3-for-3 batting with four RBIs, while J.P. Castro also went 3-for-3 with three runs, a double, and two RBIs.

Castro tossed three one-hit innings, allowing the Padres to three unearned runs with six strikeouts and four walks. Teregeyo closed out the fourth and retired three while giving up one hit.

Red Sox 32, Jets 1

The Red Sox capitalized on the Jets' 21 errors in completing the one-sided win.

Devon Pangelinan homered, a solo shot in the fourth, with three doubles while scoring four runs and driving in three.

Joven Reyes went 3-for-3 with three runs, two doubles, and one RBI, while Anton Aguon had two doubles, three runs, and three RBIs in a 3-for-4 plate appearance.

ored powder as part of the celebration.

Part of the proceeds of the fund-raising running event will be donated to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, an organization helping victims to speak out against abuse.

Pacific Trading Co., Let's Move Marianas, Triple J Motors, Marianas Visitors Authority, Delta Airlines, T Galleria, Five Star Wholesale Foods, Tobacco-Free CNMI, Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Division of Public Health, Island Apparel, Sea Touch, Bridge Capital, The Shack, and SandCastle were the sponsors of the event.

Cash and other gift certificates were given away with the top prize a round-trip ticket to Japan courtesy of Delta.

LEE

From Page 28

girls U18 finale after the latter swept the last two sets, 6-4, 6-0. Lopez settled for another runner-up honor as she also defeated Heras, 6-2, 6-0, and Rastguiy, 6-1, 6-1, in the earlier games last weekend.

In the boys U18 singles, which had a round-robin format, too, Lizama went perfect in three games to gain his second consecutive title this season.

Lizama, who earned his first boys U18 plum in last month's PIC tournament, won NMITA's last event after

Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Competition 2015

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



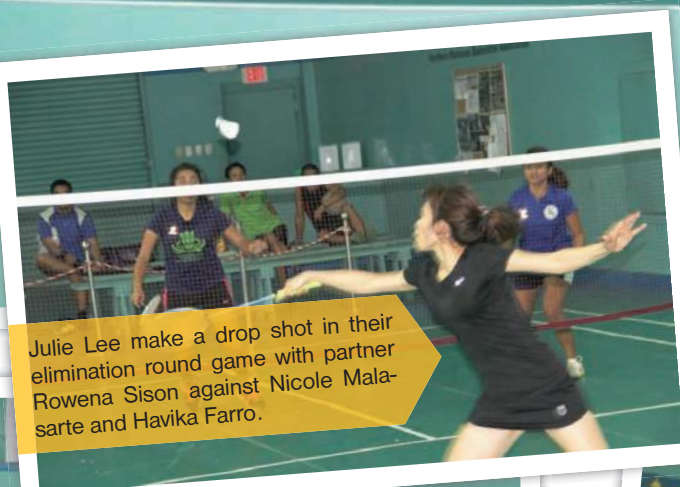
Janelle Pangilinan serves in her final match against Hannah Choi in the women's singles A division of the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Competition 2015 held at the TSL Sports Complex early this month.



From left, women's B doubles finalists Marylyn Montano and partner Lucelle Lampera, Nicole Malasarte, and Havika Farro pose for a photo before their game.



Sun Palace Hotel general manager Shirley Kim poses for a photo following her company's sponsorship of the third season of the tournament.



Julie Lee make a drop shot in their elimination round game with partner Rowena Sison against Nicole Malasarte and Havika Farro.



Deether Edralin, top, serves to Jordan Pangilinan in their semi-finals match in the men's A singles division.



Edwin Montoya prepares to serve in their elimination round game with partner Joel Ortega against Gary Bandoja and Edwin Maratas.



Hannah Choi prepares to make a return.



Women's B singles finalists Havika Farro, left, and Loyda Ito, pose for a photo.



Janelle Pangilinan, bottom, in action against Hannah Choi.



Andreu Galvez, bottom, in action in his men's A singles match against Deether Edralin.



**Furyk tops
Kisner in
playoff to win
RBC Heritage**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**CP3, Griffin lead
Clippers past
Spurs 107-92 in
opener**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee, Lizama triumph anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee notched her third straight division crown, while Luther Lizama earned back-to-back, as they ruled the U18 singles competitions in the 2015 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Lee bagged the girls U18 tiara in Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's last junior tournament for the 2014-2015 season after topping the round-robin contest with her unbeaten 3-0 record. Lee, who won the same division title in the Coconut Tennis Classic and PIC Tennis Championships this year, boosted her chances for the third straight championship after downing Isabel Heras, 6-0, 6-1, and Negahr Rastguir, 6-1, 6-4, last Saturday.

The Saipan Community School student then clinched the division crown last Sunday after surviving Mikayla Lopez in three sets. Lopez prevailed in the opening set, 6-3, but failed to stop Lee's string of successes in the

See LEE on Page 26



LEE



LIZAMA



Camacho tosses two-hitter in Red Sox win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Nate Camacho tossed a complete game two-hitter to lift the Red Sox to a 5-2 win over the Enforcers in the Senior League division of the Saipan Little League on Saturday at the Francisco M. Tan Ko Palacios Baseball Field.

See CAMACHO on Page 26

Red Sox pitcher Nate Camacho prepares to throw to the plate during their Senior League game against the Fielders in the Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

JON PEREZ

1.2K join PIC Hafa Adai Color Run

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Singaporean Ashwin Mohan Ram was among the 1,200 runners that joined last Saturday's Hafa Adai 5K Color Run, which started and ended at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Ram, who was on Saipan for business, said he decided to join the fund-



raising event on the invitation of PIC staff. "The people at PIC recommended it. It was a really cool event and it's for a good cause," said Ram, a computer software engineer. "I love to come back here for a vacation with my wife, but I don't know when. Maybe, if there's not much work."

Families, friends, employees from different business establishments, and students from various schools packed the northbound lane of Beach Road where they ran from PIC to Chalan Kanoa across the Triple J Wholesale store and back.

A 30-member personnel from the newly created Department of Fire and

See 1.2K on Page 26



Volunteers throw colored powder to runners in last Saturday's PIC Hafa Ada 5K Fun Run.

JON PEREZ